

## Conference on Arab culture opens

DAMASCUS (AP) — The sixth pan-Arab cultural conference opened here on Tuesday under the patronage of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Syrian Minister of Culture Najah Al Attar, who deputised for Mr. Assad, addressed the meeting, which is held under the theme "Arab Culture in its Universal Dimension." Mr. Attar stressed the need for achieving Arab cultural unity, saying that "it is a step towards achieving political unity."

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## Mubarak's U.S. visit still undecided

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak would be welcome in the United States, but no date has been set for a visit to Washington, the U.S. ambassador to Cairo said Monday. Mr. Mubarak was reported to have rejected a proposal from U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration that he visit Washington in February. Ambassador Frank G. Wisner spoke to reporters Tuesday after a meeting with Butros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. Mr. Wisner said the meeting focused on African issues, especially the war in Chad between government forces and Libyan-backed rebels. Asked when Mr. Mubarak would visit Washington, Mr. Wisner said, "he is welcome, but no visit has been decided yet."

## Egypt completes election process

CAIRO (AP) — Invoking a constitutional privilege, President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday appointed 10 members to the nation's new parliament, which opens this week. The Middle East News Agency reported the presidential decree on the appointees, describing them all as "public figures." Their appointments bring to 458 the number of members in the People's Assembly. National elections this month chose 448 members, with Mr. Mubarak's National Democratic Party winning an overwhelming majority, 347 seats.

## Assad, Khamenei exchange messages

DAMASCUS (AP) — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hussein Sheikholeslam on Monday delivered a message from President Ali Khamenei to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on bilateral relations and Middle East developments. The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. SANA said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa attended the meeting. Mr. Sheikholeslam earlier had a meeting with Mr. Sharaa. The agency said Mr. Assad gave Mr. Sheikholeslam a letter from Mr. Khamenei. It did not elaborate.

## Top Hanoi party leaders win elections

BANGKOK (AP) — Vietnam announced Tuesday that Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and other top party officials were elected to the National Assembly. The Voice of Vietnam radio, monitored in Bangkok, said Mr. Linh, who became party chief at last December's sixth national party congress, was among 31 candidates elected in Hanoi during the balloting Sunday. Also elected to the assembly were Defence Minister Le Duc Anh, the sixth-ranking member of the all-powerful party politburo, and Nguyen Thanh Binh, who ranks no. 11 in the politburo.

## Senate panel grants immunity to Poindexter

WASHINGTON (R) — The special Senate committee investigating the Iran arms affair voted Tuesday to give limited immunity from prosecution to former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, congressional sources said.

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# Jordan: Abrogation of Feb. 11 accord will not block efforts for int'l talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The PLO's abrogation of the Feb. 11, 1985 agreement with Jordan will not slow efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East, the government said Tuesday.

"The Jordanian government affirms that it will not allow the PLO Executive Committee's decision to abrogate the accord to form an obstacle in the face of Arab efforts to reach a just and peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East," said a government statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The statement said Jordan still viewed the accord as "reflecting the distinctive relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples... which will remain the light guiding Jordan in its continuous and serious efforts... to liberate the occupied Palestinian land and restore the legitimate rights of its people."

The PLO Executive Committee, in a statement issued in Algiers on Monday, said it was abrogating the Feb. 11 agreement because it found the accord had become an obstacle to the development of relations between the PLO and Jordan. The PLO statement also pledged that the Executive Committee would work towards finding a "new framework" for relations with Jordan.

The abrogation of the accord was one of the preconditions cited by radical PLO factions as the price for their attendance at the 18th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) which opened in Algiers on Monday.

The PNC has to ratify the cancellation of the accord.

The Jordanian statement said on Tuesday that "under any circumstances, the Palestinian people have the final say about their future because they are the party that is primarily concerned with (efforts for) liberation from Israeli occupation and restoration of their legitimate rights."

Following is the full text of the statement:

"The Jordanian government, after a careful study of the PLO Executive Committee statement announcing the decision to consider the Feb. 11, 1985 accord as null and void, hereby reaffirms that the agreement as reflecting the distinctive relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and the principles (contained in the agreement) will remain the light guiding Jordan in its continuous and serious efforts at both Arab and international levels to liberate the occupied Palestinian land and restore the legitimate rights of its people."

"The Jordanian government reaffirms that it will not allow the PLO Executive Committee's decision to abrogate the accord to form an obstacle in the face of Arab efforts to reach a just and peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict."

"The Feb. 11 accord was the outcome of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian conviction, based on the Fez Arab summit resolutions, aimed at paving the ground for the PLO to participate in the proposed international conference. It was also a pan-Arab initiative, which reflected Jordan's sense of responsibility towards our Palestinian kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories."

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# Ties with Egypt return to centre-stage at PNC

By Lami K. Andoni and Bader Abdel Haq in Algiers

THE PALESTINE National Council (PNC) continued its second day of meetings here on Tuesday with behind-the-scenes negotiations and on-stage speeches on the Palestinian struggle amid reports that the PLO's relations with Egypt had reemerged as a sore point in the face of a united Palestinian strategy.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which appeared to have settled for a compromise over the issue of PLO-Egypt relations before agreeing to attend the PNC, returned on Tuesday to renew its demand that the PLO leadership come across with a clearly defined statement severing all political relations and contacts with the Egyptian government. Informed PFLP sources said the move was prompted by fears of a new split in the ranks of the Damascus-based faction.

According to the sources, Maher Yamani, a senior member of the PFLP who is currently in Damascus, was opposed to the PFLP attending the PNC meeting without an explicit undertaking by the PLO leadership to sever all contacts with the Egyptian government. Mr. Yamani was threatening to break away from PFLP leader George Habash and form his own movement opposed to Dr. Habash's leadership, the sources said.

Dr. Habash announced in a

help ferry the injured to hospitals.

The blast shattered windows of many cars and surrounding buildings, but no massive structural damage was immediately reported.

The army cordoned off the area around the terminal, and police imposed a curfew on the entire Colombo district to help restore order.

Thousands of commuters were stranded.

The United News of India said some people at the scene said the bomb appeared to have been inside a car parked in front of a branch of the Bank of Ceylon near the terminal.

The government imposed a nine-hour night curfew from 8 p.m. in the capital and told residents to remain at home. Officials said the curfew was clamped to prevent retaliation against Tamils by majority Sinhalese

people. The killings of 13 Sinhalese soldiers by Tamil rebels in July 1983 sparked widespread riots against Tamils in Colombo and other cities. More than 5,500 people have been killed in the conflict since the 1983 riots.

The blast followed the deaths of 142 people, mostly Sinhalese, in separatist violence in the past five days.

Reuters photographer Richard Ellis said at least 40 bodies were scattered at the central Colombo site. He said two cars and three buses were completely burnt and seven shops were set afire.

Thick billows of black smoke hovered over the area and office workers hurried from buildings after the blast. The blast was about one kilometre from the office of President Junius Yawwardene in the Fort area of the capital.

Carbombs killed 1, injures 64 in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A hand-grenade thrown from a pick-up truck killed a black police trainee Tuesday and injured 64 at Soweto's municipal police training college, officials said.

The bureau for information said six of the trainees were seriously injured.

The casualty toll of 64 was the largest number of security officers ever hurt in a single attack in South Africa.

About six hours after the attack, a car-bombing was reported near downtown Johannesburg in one of several neighbourhoods that has become multiracial due to lax enforcement of laws mandating segregated neighbourhoods.

The bureau for information said the grenade attack occurred at 8:40 a.m. at the Tladi municipal police training centre, where black municipalities from all over the country send hundreds of young men for a 13-week training course to become township police.

An anonymous telephone caller claiming to represent the Azanian People's Liberation Army, guerrilla wing of the outlawed Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) fighting white domination, said his organisation was responsible for the parade ground attack.

The caller said the attacks would continue "until we win."

## Iranians attack but miss tanker

BAHRAIN (AP) — An Iranian helicopter fired two missiles at a Japanese tanker sailing to Kuwait, but they missed their target, marine salvage executives said Tuesday. The attack on the 53,000-ton liquefied gas carrier Tenryu Maru occurred Monday at 8:05 a.m. about 65 kilometres off Abu Dhabi, the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit said. The vessel was in ballast, sailing to Kuwait to lift a shipment of petroleum products. The Gulf executives later determined that an Iranian helicopter came in very fast and at low altitude when the vessel was about 20 kilometres south of the UAE island of Sir Abu Nu'ayr. "It made one pass over the tanker, fired two rockets which missed and splashed into the water, then veered off and headed toward the Iranian mainland," said one of the executives. The Tenryu Maru, owned by Tokyo's Nippon Yusen Kaisha, was the second Japanese tanker sailing to Kuwait to be attacked this year by Iran in the southern sector of the waterway in the offshoots of the Iran-Iraq war. On Jan. 7, the 238,770-ton Cosmo Jupiter was hit by a rocket fired from an Iranian gunboat off Dubai.

## Mubarak sends message of support to Arafat

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has sent a message of support to PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the wake of his refusal to break all links with the Egyptian government, the Middle East News Agency reported Monday.

The message was delivered to Mr. Arafat in Algiers Monday by Ambassador Taha Al Farnawany who is heading Egypt's delegation to the Palestine National Council.

Reside delivering Mr. Mubarak's message to Mr. Arafat, Mr. Farnawany said he held talks with members of the PLO's Executive Committee and representatives of various Palestinian factions attending the PNC session.

press conference on Monday that he was satisfied with an undertaking by the PLO leadership that the current session of the PNC would bring about strict restrictions on the leadership's contacts with Egypt by giving new powers to a new PLO Executive Committee.

Although the Egypt-PLO file was not opened during the PNC meeting on Tuesday, attention was focused on this question more than any other topic on the PNC agenda, especially as the PNC was listening to speeches delivered by Arab and foreign delegations attending the

meeting.

(Continued on page 3)

# 100 feared killed in Colombo blast

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil rebels set off a huge bomb in the central Colombo bus station on Wednesday as thousands of office workers were hurrying home and the government said as many as 100 were feared dead in the blast heard 15 kilometres away.

The government said about 100 others were wounded in the blast about 5 p.m., as commuters were rushing home through heavy rain in the Pettah commercial area.

Officials said Tamil rebels were responsible for the explosion that set cars and buses, and nearby shops ablaze.

Witnesses at the scene told AP they believed the death toll could be higher, saying many of the victims suffered severe burns and many bodies were charred.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

Rescue work was hampered by heavy rainfall. Police commanders said cars, buses and trucks to

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), opened a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers on Monday by calling for a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Shamir said: "We will overcome all our enemies. Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital forever."

Palestinian newspapers in Arab Jerusalem praised Mr. Arafat's decision and said it would help heal rifts among Palestinian groups.

Al Fajr, which supports the PLO, said cancellation of the Feb. 11, 1985 Jordan-PLO agreement was necessary to unify Palestinians.

An Nabar said most Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip supported Mr. Arafat's stand.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin accused Mr. Arafat of ordering a wave of anti-Israeli guerrilla attacks to coincide with the PNC meeting.

Three Israelis have been killed in attacks in northern Israel and the occupied West Bank this month in what Israeli leaders have interpreted as a show of anti-Israeli zeal ahead of the PNC meeting.

"Instructions were sent by Arafat and other organisations to carry out (attacks) by infiltration and firing Katyusha rockets," Mr. Rabin told reporters.

In the last two days, nine Soviet-designed Katyushas fired from Lebanon have slammed into Galilee, causing damage but no casualties.

On Sunday, three Palestinian infiltrators and two Israeli soldiers were killed in a clash near an Israeli settlement.



# Moscow presents Arab states with ideas on ending Gulf war

**ABU DHABI (Agencies) —** The Soviet Union has presented Gulf Arab states with new ideas on stopping the Iran-Iraq war, the Emirates News Agency WAM reported Tuesday.

It said Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, now on a Gulf tour, briefed United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan on the ideas Monday night.

They involved giving the United Nations Security Council a role in resolving the 6½-year-old conflict in cooperation with Gulf states, WAM said. The UAE is an elected member of the council.

Mr. Petrovsky told WAM Monday he was carrying proposals from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev calling for an international conference on ways to protect Gulf shipping and end the war.

More than 20 commercial vessels have been hit in the Gulf so far this year in a maritime extension of the conflict.

WAM quoted Sheikh Zaid as calling on big powers to do everything possible to stop the war.

"Every step toward peace will be

recorded in history as a constructive and everlasting achievement for future generations," he said.

Mr. Petrovsky is the first senior Soviet official to visit the UAE since the two countries established diplomatic ties in November 1985.

Diplomats said his tour, which also includes Oman and Iraq, was likely to boost the Soviet Union's growing influence in the region.

Mr. Petrovsky arrived in Abu Dhabi Sunday from Kuwait, the country closest to the Iran-Iraq war zone and the one whose ships have been singled out for Iranian attacks in retaliation for Iraqi raids on Iranian oil tanker routes.

While Mr. Petrovsky was in Kuwait, the authorities there confirmed that the state-owned Kuwaiti Oil Tanker Co. was chartering tankers from "friendly countries," or was registering its 21-ship fleet with those countries as protection against Iranian attacks.

The Soviet government had earlier confirmed it had chartered three tankers to Kuwait and that these could be protected by Soviet warships.

Meanwhile the U.S. State Department said Monday the United States and Kuwait are working out details of a proposed agreement under which some Kuwaiti oil tankers would fly U.S. flags in the troubled Gulf.

The department said the registration switch could pave the way for U.S. warships to protect those Kuwaiti ships in the Gulf, where Iran and Iraq have attacked shipping in their six-year-old war.

Iran, which recently stationed anti-air missiles on shore near the mouth of the Gulf, has charged Kuwait with supporting Iraq and has previously attacked Kuwait-connected shipping.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters that the U.S.-Kuwait talks were in the context of Washington's ongoing discussions with Gulf Arab states on "the threat posed to neutral Gulf shipping by Iranian attacks."

"As part of these discussions, we're consulting with the Kuwaitis about registering some of their fleet as U.S. flag vessels," Mr. Redman said.

"We and the Kuwaitis are currently working out the details of the registration procedure."

Kuwait has more than a dozen tankers, but Mr. Redman did not say how many tankers might be involved in the deal.

The United States maintains about six destroyers and frigates in the Gulf to watch over U.S. shipping interests.

The Soviet Union maintains no such force, but the Reagan administration has expressed fears that last week's agreement might be used by Moscow to increase its military presence and influence in the Gulf.

Mr. Redman said Monday that any ships flying the U.S. flag would be entitled to "the same protected status afforded other U.S. ships transiting the Gulf."

He said the United States understood the Soviet-Kuwaiti arrangement was to be "solely a commercial charter undertaking," but declined further comment on the deal.

## Kremlin denies cancelling Israel visit

**MOSCOW (AP) —** Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov denied Tuesday that a team of Soviet consular officials has cancelled a planned visit to Israel.

Mr. Gerasimov was asked at his regular news briefing on international affairs about a statement made in the United Arab Emirates by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky.

Mr. Petrovsky told reporters after his arrival on Sunday that the consular visit had been cancelled "after Israel tried to exploit the visit for blackmail and for applying pressure."

Mr. Gerasimov said, "the tickets have not yet been bought, the visas not yet applied for, but the visit has not been cancelled."

He gave no other details of the situation.

Mr. Petrovsky, who is on a tour of the Gulf nations, also denied that the Kremlin plans to restore diplomatic relations with Israel.

"The reasons which motivated the rupture of these relations in 1967 are still in force with Israel refusing to quit the occupied Arab territories."

Mr. Gerasimov confirmed in an interview with an Israeli radio reporter earlier this month that the Soviet government planned to send a consular delegation to Israel in a few weeks to inventory property of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Israeli officials said a return visit would be made to the Soviet Union to survey Israeli property here and to monitor living conditions for Soviet Jews. Mr. Gerasimov denied the radio interview that a return visit was planned.

"There is no question of reciprocity here," he said.

The Soviet Union broke off diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and has stated that ties will not be renewed until Israel vacates Arab territory it occupies.

No agreement on Jewish Emigration

Mr. Petrovsky on Monday denied reports that the Soviet Union had reached an agreement to permit specific numbers of Jews to emigrate periodically from the Soviet Union. The total figure circulated was 10,000 to 12,000.

"Emigration takes place on the merit of each case," he said.

"The circumstances are now more opportune than ever for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East," he said.

"A sound thinking in the Israeli policy will prevail eventually," he added.

When pressed to elaborate, he said that he meant a "change in Israel's present policy of aggression and expansion in the Middle East."

## Cypriot police hunt for gunmen

**NICOSIA (R) —** Cypriot police hunted Tuesday for masked gunmen who ambushed and shot two British drivers in a military Land-rover on a country road, but one officer said they had few clues.

"We have no claims and few clues but we would rather not wait the attackers if we know anything," he told Reuters.

Cyprus Radio broadcast police appeals for information.

Army Corporal John Bailey, 35, was hit in the leg and Linda Wilkinson, 15, was shot in the back when gunmen raked the Land-rover with automatic weapons as they were driving between two British bases Monday.

Critics of the bases have in the past year called for their removal, saying they are a source of tension in the east Mediterranean.

Condemning the attack, Interior Minister Dimos Michaelides said:

"Such hideous terrorist actions deal a blow to Cyprus... and serve interests alien to those of our country."

"I underline once more the determination of the state to combat any form of illegal action from any quarter," he added in a statement.

A British spokesman said Bailey, from Darlington, would leave Akrotiri base hospital Tuesday and that Wilkinson, daughter of a warrant officer from Littlehampton, was in a stable condition.

A Cypriot police source said two masked men had lain in wait in a car near Momi village on the coastal road 16 kilometres east of Limassol.

He said there might have been a second car and there were signs that the gunmen also threw a grenade which exploded but missed the Land-rover.

Bailey was driving the Land-rover and towing a horse-trailer from Dhekelia Base in the east of Cyprus to Akrotiri, eight kilometres west of Limassol.

Officials said strict security measures were in force Tuesday at the island's ports and airports and that British and Cypriot police were manning roadblocks and checking vehicles.

Witnesses reported heavy British helicopter traffic along the southern coast between Dhekelia and Akrotiri.

Unknown guerrillas attacked Akrotiri airbase last August with mortars, rockets, gunfire and grenades, injuring the wives of two servicemen.

No arrests were made, but police suspected the attack was in revenge for Britain allowing its American bases to be used to launch last year's U.S. air raid on Libya.

## Israelis raise \$186,000 for Pollard

**TEL AVIV (R) —** An Israeli group for convicted U.S. Spy Jonathan Pollard has said it planned to send to the United States \$186,000 it has raised in donations for him, Israeli Television reported.

The Public Israeli Committee for the Pollards said most of the sum would go to cover legal fees for the former U.S. navy analyst serving a life sentence for handing over top-secret documents to Israel, the report said.

The rest of the sum would be deposited into a bank account for Pollard and his wife Anne, also serving a jail term as his accomplice.

The committee was formed by Israelis who felt their government had deserted Pollard after he was apprehended for providing Israel with valuable U.S. information on Soviet and Arab arms.

Private agencies operating in the south estimate 800,000 people are short of food and another 400,000 have been displaced by the war, which has also disrupted agriculture.

Africa's largest country and one of the world's poorest, Sudan in October expelled Winston Prattley, the U.N. secretary-general's special envoy for emergency operations here.

Khartoum's official media at the time said he was ordered out because he had contacted anti-government rebels in the south about flying relief supplies to areas under their control.

Mr. Prattley, a New Zealander, denied the charge. He has since been replaced by another senior U.N. official.

The relief workers say the incident underlined Khartoum's sensitivity to relief operations in the south. As a result, Sudan is suspicious and mistrustful about foreign relief operations there, they add.

Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have fought troops in the south since 1983 for greater regional autonomy and less dominance by the Muslim north of the country.

"We never had any problems with the government when we worked in the north during the 1984 and 1985 drought. So why the fuss now?" a senior relief worker asked.

Other workers say most of the pressure is directed at private relief agencies working in southern Sudan.

Last November, the governors of Equatoria and Upper Nile, two of the three southern provinces, expelled three relief workers operating there after the workers were accused of exploiting their positions to serve SPLA interests.

Equatoria Governor Peter Sireilo charged in the following month that relief agencies in his province were engaged in espionage and were meddling in Sudan's internal affairs.

Many Sudanese in Khartoum appear to share this view.

Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Kamel Shawki, said of the expulsions: "These people had no respect for the government and the country's interests. They were expelled and more will be expelled as they come to light or as they do wrong."

The relief workers say Khartoum has imposed restrictions on operations in the south since Mr. Prattley left.

The use of radio in the three southern provincial capitals of Juba, Malakal and Wau has been banned for private relief organisations, preventing them from establishing offices there, they say.

Mr. Shawki rejected another complaint by the relief workers that army troops, frequently, used to protect relief convoys or barges from raids by SPLA rebels or bandits, often ate the relief food and sometimes sold it to local merchants.

Mr. Shawki said troops deployed in the south, estimated by diplomats here to number about 25,000, receive their own food.

"Relief food is not for everyone, it is for the destitute and the needy... The army gets its own food," he said.

## Suspicion mars Sudan's ties with relief agencies

By Hamza Hendawi  
Reuters

**KHARTOUM —** Foreign Relief Workers fear their relations with the government, still tense over the expulsion of the top U.N. official in Sudan, could worsen as pressure builds to move supplies ahead of the rainy season.

They say problems arise mainly from operations in South Sudan, a vast non-Muslim area torn by nearly four years of civil war.

The workers say only 1,500-2,000 tonnes out of 71,000 tonnes of food thought needed to cover the May-to-October rainy season have reached the south.

Donor countries are refusing to pledge more than the 22,000 tonnes already promised until the pace of internal delivery quickens, they add.

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Mr. Shawki rejected another complaint by the relief workers that army troops, frequently, used to protect relief convoys or barges from raids by SPLA rebels or bandits, often ate the relief food and sometimes sold it to local merchants.

Mr. Shawki said troops deployed in the south, estimated by diplomats here to number about 25,000, receive their own food.

"Relief food is not for everyone, it is for the destitute and the needy... The army gets its own food," he said.

## Iraqis celebrate 1,124th anniversary of Baghdad

**BAGHDAD (R) —** Tens of thousands of young Iraqis in folk costume marched through Baghdad Tuesday to celebrate the 1,124th anniversary of the city's foundation.

They waved placards denouncing Iran's "aggression against the homeland" in the 6½-year Gulf war and handed sweets, flowers, tea and coffee to senior officials, diplomats and other spectators in the city of 4.5 million people.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was represented at the mass parade by Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

The city's metropolitan area, including buildings, had been specially cleaned for the occasion by volunteers.

According to Fawzi Rashid,

director-general of the Iraqi Antiquities Department, Baghdad got its name from the ancient Sumerian civilisation dating back nearly 4,800 years.

"The Sumerians called the location 'Badad', meaning the land with far-stretched territory," he said.

The Abbasid Caliph Abu Jaafar Ali Mansur chose the site as capital of his Islamic empire in the year 762, but marauding Mongols in the 13th century destroyed many of its monuments and other landmarks.

The city was rebuilt and began to take a shape closer to its golden age after President Hussein took power in 1979 and spent some of the country's oil wealth on development.

## French charity sends 3,500 tonnes of aid to Lebanon

**BEIRUT (R) —** A French ship carrying 3,500 tonnes of food and medicine for war-torn Lebanon docked Tuesday at Beirut port, a spokesman for the French charity "Medicins Du Monde" said.

He said the relief supplies, including wheat, powdered milk, edible oil, sugar, rice and canned foods, would be distributed by Christian religious leaders in Falangist areas and to Muslim leaders in opposition areas.

About a third of the estimated three to four million people in Lebanon have lost their first homes since the civil war started 12 years ago.

In February, the European Community announced emergency medical and food aid to various communities in Lebanon totalling 1.17 million ECUS (\$1.34 million).

The British embassy said last month that Britain would provide about \$900,000 worth of relief aid for displaced Lebanese and Palestinian refugees.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has accused Western powers of wanting to turn the South Pacific region into an arena of conflict and has called on revolutionary groups there to fight for freedom.

"The small nations of the Pacific Ocean are in danger... at the hands of France, America, Britain, Zionism and racism," he told a conference of revolutionary groups and liberation movements from the area Monday.

"They all want to transform your region into one of nuclear tests... and a military operations theatre in the Third World war. They want to sacrifice you on behalf of the peoples of America and Europe."

Libyan television, which broadcast the speech monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), did not say which groups from the South

Pacific were attending the conference in the Libyan coastal city of Misratah.

Col. Qadhafi told delegates to begin "gathering the force fighting for freedom" when they returned to their countries.

Western diplomats in Australia said this month members of French New Caledonia's Kanak independence movement and rebels from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya had received training in Libya.

Libya established relations with the island state of Vanuatu last year and is seeking links with Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tonga, according to Western diplomats in Sydney.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said on April 7 that Australia was seriously concerned over Libya's move into the region.

## Qadhafi calls for 'freedom fighting' in South Pacific

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## Tehran 'might consider' resuming ties with U.S.

**LONDON (R) —** A senior Iranian official said his country would eventually consider resuming relations with the United States, severed since 1980, if it changed its policies towards Tehran.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA quoted Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as telling a press conference in Tehran "we do not think Tehran-Washington relations should remain cut for ever. It was the U.S. which first severed ties with Iran."

"Once Iran is assured that the U.S. does not intend to engage in any more mischief against Iran it would be prepared to resume relations with Washington," he said.

The United States severed ties following the Iranian students' occupation of its embassy in Tehran in 1979.

IRNA, received in London, said Mr. Rafsanjani also restated Iran's readiness to help secure release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon if Washington reversed what he called hostile attitudes towards Iran.

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme review
16:50	Cartoons (Finstone)
16:55	Children's programme
17:10	Walt Disney
17:30	The Questers
18:00	Agriculture in Saudi Arabia
18:15	Arabic series
19:20	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Message from Cairo
20:45	Arabic series
21:25	Arabic series
22:05	News in Arabic
22:05	Series Contd.
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	"Tiroi secret"
19:00	News in French
19:15	Arabic series
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Folk dances
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	There's a Crowd
21:10	Documentary: "A gentle way with cancer" (eps. 6)
22:00	News in English
22:20	Bestseller: The Last Convertible
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel: 771111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show Contd.
11:00	Men from the Ministry
11:30	Songs from Movies
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Readings
13:00	Pop Session
13:30	News Summary
14:00	Pop Session
14:30	News Bulletin
14:40	Instrumentals
15:00	Follow the Wind
15:30	Concert Hour
16:00	News in Summary



## Assad opens Arab chemists' conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad Tuesday said that scientific experimentation has been one of the greatest contributions of Muslim scholars (ulamas) towards human civilisation and that European scholars applied this approach five centuries after Muslim scholars had laid down its foundations.

Addressing the ninth session of Higher Council of the Arab Chemists Federation (ACF) which opened at the Plaza Hotel on Tuesday, Dr. Assad said that chemistry has always been associated with the Arabs and many advances in this field have been attributed to them. This, he said, was confirmed by many world scholars who have said that Arab and Muslim scholars were the first to lay down the foundations of this science and its theories.

Dr. Assad went on to review the distinguished role of Muslims in developing this science and their efforts in drawing up theories and laying down proper foundations for a scientific approach based on experiment, observation and extrapolation (inference).

Dr. Assad called on the ACF to work on recording the history of this subject in a scientific and objective method in preparation for teaching it to Arab students.

Dr. Mohammad Salameh, president of the Jordanian Chemists Association, said that chemistry is a unique subject because it is an integral part of all daily activities.

## S. Korean leaves after delivering message to King

AMMAN (Petra) — South Korean presidential envoy Moon Do Huh left Jordan on Tuesday at the end of a three-day visit during which he was received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to whom the envoy delivered a written message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan.

In a pre-departure statement, Mr. Huh said that his talks with Jordanian government officials were "successful and excellent" and that Jordanian and South Korean views were identical on means of establishing peace in the Middle East region.

The South Korean and Jordanian governments, he said, continue to exert efforts for further bolstering their bilateral cooperation in all fields. Mr. Huh was seen off at the Queen Alia International Airport by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Sami-Judeh and South Korea's ambassador to Jordan Dong Soon Park.

## Ties with Egypt remain in focus

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, a rift appeared to be widening among PNC members over the proposed powers of the Executive Committee and plans to increase its membership to 20 from the present 14. Various PLO factions have indicated that they would insist on bringing about changes in the power structure in the PLO to curb what they see as Fateh's dominance of the committee.

The working sessions of the PNC were dedicated on Tuesday to hearing speeches by various Arab and foreign delegates attending the conference. One of the most important speeches delivered on Tuesday and which drew the attention of most observers here was one delivered by the Soviet delegate, a member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, who announced total Soviet support for PLO unity and the military struggle of the Palestinian people.

The delegate also pledged Moscow's support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent Palestinian state.

He also referred to the Soviet position towards an international peace conference on the Middle East — a proposal originally put forward by Moscow — and said the Soviet Union saw the proposed forum as the ultimate arena

## Islamic congress holds symposium on Jerusalem and the Zionist challenge

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day symposium on Jerusalem and the Zionist challenge to the Arab and Islamic World was organised in Amman on Tuesday by the General Islamic Congress for Bait Al Magdis. Among the speakers was Dr. Izzat Jaradat, the congress' chairman, who outlined the spiritual status of the holy city for all monotheistic religions. He also presented a briefing on the different invasions the city has been exposed to throughout the ages.

He spoke about the arbitrary measures imposed by the Israeli authorities on the Arab population of the city and the Israeli's continued drive to obliterate the Arab and Islamic heritage in Jerusalem. The Israelis are continuing to set up Jewish settlements around the city and confiscating Arab-owned land in a bid to wipe out its Arab and Islamic character, Dr. Jaradat told members of the congress.

Another speaker, Mr. Kamel Al Sharif, said that the holy city of Jerusalem calls out for help and urges the Arabs and Muslims to shoulder their duty. Israel's occupation of Jerusalem, he said, comes as a challenge to all international norms and principles and is similar to imperialist and colonial rule in Africa and other parts of the world.

Dr. Mohammad Adnan Al Bakht, the dean of scientific research at the University of Jordan, submitted a study on Jerusalem in which he outlined the

barbaric onslaught on the city. He called for the establishment of an institution to handle all studies on Jerusalem and to propagate all information about the holy city.

Mr. Fayed Jaber, secretary general of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs, presented a working paper on the importance of population density in countering Israeli settlement challenges.

Taking part in the symposium, organised by the General Islamic Congress for Bait Al Magdis, were members of the congress, in addition to a number of ulamas (Muslim scholars), experts and representatives of organisations and institutions concerned with the issue of Jerusalem.

## Dudin briefs student delegation on Palestine question, Mideast peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin conferred in his office on Tuesday with a delegation of students representing the Arab-British universities league, currently on a visit to Jordan.

Mr. Dudin reviewed developments in the Palestine problem and said that the issue of Palestine created a humanitarian problem, namely the refugees who were forced out of their homes and country by the force of arms.

The problem of the refugees and displaced people concerns the international community which should help find a solution through the implementation of

United Nations Security Council resolutions, Mr. Dudin continued.

Referring to the situation in the refugee camps, Mr. Dudin spoke about efforts exerted by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to improve the living conditions of camp residents. He said that Jordan has never abandoned its commitment towards the people of the Israeli-held West Bank and the Gaza Strip and has already embarked on implementing a social and economic five-year plan to develop the occupied territory.

The minister spoke about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis peace in the Middle East and said that Jordan advocates a comprehensive and durable peace in the region and holds the view that such a peace could not be fulfilled except through an international conference which should be attended by the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all other concerned parties as well as move towards implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The meeting was attended by ministry's under secretary Dr. Ahmad Qatanani and ministry officials.

## Haj Hassan nominated to chair ILO conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan has been nominated chairman of the International Labour Conference due to be held in Geneva during June.

Mr. Haj Hassan's nomination was approved by the Asian and Pacific group at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which has Geneva as its headquarters. The decision to nominate Mr. Haj Hassan was relayed to the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday by the Jordanian permanent delegation at the United Nations

European headquarters in Geneva.

An Arab labour conference, held recently in Baghdad, also recommended that Mr. Haj Hassan chair the forthcoming conference. The Arab League Council also nominated Mr. Haj Hassan to chair the ILO conference.

The chairman of the ILO conference is elected by rotation among the ILO's four main regions of Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe and North and South America.

## Parliamentarians leave for Managua

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation has left Amman for Managua, Nicaragua, to take part in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference, due to open on April 27. The delegation is led by Mr. Walid Salah, member of the Upper House of Parliament, and comprises two members from the Lower House of Parliament.

3rd expatriates' conference slated for July

AMMAN (Petra) — The third Jordanian expatriates' conference will be held here on July 13 under Royal patronage, according to an announcement issued on Tuesday. The first two conferences were held in Amman in 1985 and 1986.

Dahiyat opens children's festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth 'Eid Dahiyat Tuesday officially opened the second spring festival for children, organised by the Jordanian Children's theatre in cooperation with the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The week-long festival includes book exhibitions, children's drawings, handicrafts, flowers and costumes. It also includes a special tent, known as the Ali Baba tent, for story telling and reading. Among the festival's activities are dabkes, folk dances, songs, sonnets, plays and poetry competitions. Taking part in the festival are 1,000 children from various parts of Jordan. The inauguration was attended by the secretary general of the ministry, the director of the RCC and a number of senior officials.

Hamzeh inspects hospital in Madaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday visited Jamil Al Totanji hospital in Madaba and inspected the services it provides to local citizens. The health minister's visit is within his series of tours to various health facilities throughout the Kingdom in order to inspect and review the services they provide and those which are lacking. Dr. Hamzeh said that the Ministry of Health has completed the construction of an administrative building costing some JD 15,000 and that the ministry will build a new ward for surgical operations at a cost of JD 20,000.

RJGC director in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) Ra'fat Al Majali Tuesday met with Mr. Ibrahim Hussein, the director general of the Syrian remote sensing corporation to review Syrian plans in the field of remote sensing. Mr. Majali's visit to Damascus is within an Arab tour which will take him to Iraq, Egypt and Somalia. Mr. Majali, together with two other Arab experts, was entrusted by the United Nations during an international remote sensing symposium held in Tunis in Nov. 1986, to visit Arab countries and assess their experiences and resources and to study their requirements in the field of exploiting natural resources through remote sensing.

British first aid official tours CDD centres

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting director of the London ambulance section T.R. Watton Tuesday toured first aid centres in Hassa, Qatranah and Muwaqqar in south Jordan and inspected the progress of work at these centres. The visitor was accompanied by Colonel Omer Dandis, director of the first aid section at the Civil Defence Department (CDD).

Hashish dealer receives 5 year sentence

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor Tuesday endorsed a military court verdict sentencing Samir Ibrahim Othman to five years in prison and the payment of JD 3,000 in fines for dealing in hashish.

## Regent describes rural development as hinge for economic progress in Third World

Afro-Asian conference on rural reconstruction opens

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday opened a week-long meeting of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) in Amman with an outline of Jordan's plans for the reconstruction of the Jordan Valley region and implementing development projects in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan's address to the opening session was delivered on his behalf by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali who presented Prince Hassan's view on the development of rural areas in the Kingdom and also spoke about the negative results of Israel's continued occupation of Arab land.

Following are major excerpts of Prince Hassan's address to the meeting, held at the Royal Cultural Centre:

"I am pleased to open this meeting and convey to you greetings from His Majesty King Hussein who wishes you success in your endeavour and in translating your ideas and concepts into practice to offer service to the inhabitants of rural regions in Asian and African countries."

"I see in this conference a good chance for assessing various countries, activities and efforts for developing rural areas as well as for harnessing the organisation's 25 years of experience to formulate plans for the future within the framework of regional and international cooperation."

"I believe that you share with me the view that we are now confronting a major challenge that requires very clear conceptions in economic, political, demographic and social fields and clear ideas for decision makers and planners. Afro-Asian nations no doubt possess vast resources of raw materials but continue to suffer from poverty, economic crises, a growing increase in population and an ever-expanding size of their cities at the expense of rural areas and a deterioration in the state of the environment. This is coupled with the ever-widening gap between the Third World and advanced nations."

"Without scientific planning and a wise, practical policy this gap between the rich and poor will continue to widen. Therefore, well-planned population policies and development prog-

rammes should be worked out to help Third World nations carry out the aspired economic changes and a redistribution of population. This is desperately needed at the moment in order to stem the movement of people from rural to urban regions which has led to a serious deterioration in agricultural production and a dangerous imbalance in the distribution of the workforce and the emergence of economic and social crises."

"Talking about developing rural regions leads us to the main problem behind many of the numerous difficulties facing Third World nations — urbanisation and the unplanned overgrowth of major cities. In 1980, for example, there were nine enormous urban centres in the Third World and all indications point to the fact that by the year 2000 there will be 13 such huge cities which will place an unbearable load of responsibility upon local and municipal authorities in these huge population centres. The formation of vast urban centres is a result of a population depletion in rural regions and statistics show that urban migration in the Third World now stands at 20 million people annually."

"As a result of migration, rural regions have been drained of manpower and nearly 50 per cent of the city dwellers now live in slums or homes which lack vital services and which serve as a nightmare for the local authorities."

"The proportion of people living in urban regions of the world in 1950 stood at 29.2 per cent while in 1985 it rose to 48 per cent and indications point to the fact that by the year 2000, two billion people will be living in urban regions and that more than 60 per cent of world population increases will take place in urban regions."

"It should be said that interna-

tional assistance for poor countries of the world and the work of international and regional organisations is not enough. According to United Nations statistics, 36 of the world's least developed nations have received less than \$2 per capita in assistance in the past decade to help them build homes and provide water and other essential services. This means that we still need a greater measure of international cooperation to help with national economic and social development schemes."

"The development of rural regions should be comprehensive and ought to encompass agriculture and all the other necessary services, in addition to creating opportunities for jobs and employment specially for those who live in abject poverty. Therefore, wide ranging programmes of reform, land reclamation, irrigation and housing projects and essential services should be implemented and inter-Afro-Asian economic and trade and agricultural cooperation launched to improve the situation in rural regions in both continents."

"I would like to convey to you Jordan's experience in development in general and in the Jordan Valley in particular. Jordanian governments, through successive development schemes, have built the infrastructure for development in urban and rural regions of the Kingdom by providing basic services and have been doing all they could to stem the migration of people from rural to urban regions. A Jordanian working paper will be submitted to the conference summing up this experiment and will show that 100 per cent of Jordan's cities and 90 per cent of rural regions have been supplied with electricity and that 90 per cent of the people in Jordan now receive piped water. There are also major development projects for the exploitation of land in semi-desert regions."

"Jordan has been facing the challenge of Israel's occupation of the West Bank of the Kingdom and the migration of great numbers of West Bank residents to the East Bank. They were forced out as a result of Israel's scorched land policy, begun in the Jordan Valley in the early 1970s. Despite all this, Jordan has worked out comprehensive policies for

developing the Jordan Valley by carrying out agricultural projects and building modern housing units supplied with basic services. As a result of this policy, the Jordan Valley absorbed 168,000 people in 1984 and more than 36,000 jobs have been created in that rural territory. This experiment is worth studying and I hope that you will visit the Jordan Valley and witness this experiment for yourselves."

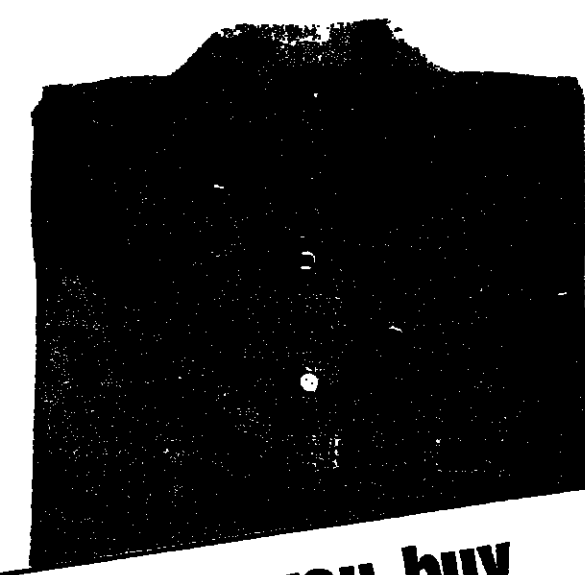
At the outset of the meeting Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan Al Jaber stressed the importance of African and Asian cooperation "to uproot poverty, eradicate thirst, hunger and illiteracy in our rural communities." The spirit of South-South dialogue should lead to a cohesive strength among less-developed nations to surmount challenges in a joint effort, Mr. Al Jaber said, adding "the north-south dialogue is the true path to reach human justice."

## Rural poverty

The minister noted that rural poverty is one of the most serious problems facing the Asian and African continents. Referring to international reports, he said that approximately 700 million people live within the absolute poverty level and cannot obtain the most necessary needs for their survival "while prohibitive amounts of money are spent on armaments... and many of the northern powers throw mountains of food surplus into the oceans, in fear of reducing their prices." The reports indicated that the development operations of some international and regional organisations over the past 25 years "have covered only one third of the developing nations' needs," said Mr. Al Jaber.

Referring to the Jordanian experience in rural development, the minister said: "The rural arena is the pillar of agricultural output and the strength of the national power to any country... our development planning has been able to push our socio-economic evolution towards new phases of advancement and prosperity in spite of the limited natural resources and the problems emanating from the Israeli aggressions."

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## Jordan Times

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 Editor and Managing Director  
**JORDAN TIMES PUBLICATION**  
 University Road, P.O. Box 970, Amman, Jordan  
 Telephone: 067771, 06772  
 Telex: 7497 ARAB JO  
 Facsimile: 06772

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### Commitment to principled stand

JORDAN did well to make clear yesterday that the abrogation of the Feb. 11 accord by the PLO would not affect the special and brotherly relations between Jordanian and Palestinians, and that the demise of the agreement did not mean the end of the road for reaching a political settlement to the Palestinian problem.

It is not that any of us wanted Jordan-PLO coordination to reach the deadlock that we now face in the aftermath of the cancellation of the Amman agreement. But there is no point in mourning the past. We are today faced with a new situation, not fundamentally different but nevertheless new, and we all have to act in a way that will first and foremost serve the Palestinian cause and our Palestinian brethren who remain to suffer under the Israeli occupation.

The statement that was issued by the government yesterday reemphasises in no uncertain terms that Jordan remains strongly committed to its principled position on the need to solve the Palestinian problem, according to U.N. and Arab resolutions, and on exerting every possible effort to find a political settlement that is just, honourable and lasting.

To this end the statement further clarified and stressed that Jordan would continue to respect the wishes of the Palestinian people in whatever they choose to do and to help them realise their aspirations for a just and lasting settlement to their problem. This is the same principled position that Jordan has always held and which it will continue to hold, despite all the setbacks, disappointments and obstacles that political work entails.

With this in mind, and in view of its unilateral decision to cancel the Feb. 11 accord, the onus is on the PLO now to seek ways in which the search for a settlement can be restarted and concluded on the basis enunciated by Arab summits and U.N. resolutions. Jordan, as the government made clear yesterday, is ready to help our Palestinian brethren in every way we can, in accordance with the distinguished relations that exist between our people, and until liberation from the yoke of occupation is at hand.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

#### Al Ra'i: One people, one destiny

ARABS and non-Arabs, friends and enemies are all following up the Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC). But for us in Jordan we view the meeting as one more stage in the development of the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. For Jordan, Palestine has always been the prime issue and the Jordanians and Palestinians have always considered their joint march as one of destiny, and their unity as inseparable, not only due to geographic proximity but also through the strong historic links between the two peoples. Whatever the result of the Algiers meeting, the relation between the peoples on both banks of the River Jordan will continue to be as strong as ever, and Palestine, though under Israeli occupation will continue to form the main and fundamental issue in Jordan's political action. We realise that the problem of the Palestinian people is one that concerns the Israelis, the Syrians and other Arab people, but for Jordan this problem and the fate of the Palestinian people remain the cornerstone in all the Jordanian moves, and the most important subject that this country should keep in mind and follow up until justice is re-established. For the past four decades the Jordanian and Palestinian people have lived together in harmony and unity and have been striving together for liberating their usurped homeland, offering sacrifice and blood for that noble cause. The blood and the sacrifice of the martyrs have blended the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian people who will remain united for ever.

#### Al Dustour: A true friend

THE Soviet Union has again reiterated its firm position with regard to the situation in the Middle East, and through Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, the deputy foreign minister has reaffirmed Moscow's call for an international Middle East peace conference to achieve peace. Mr. Petrovsky, who just concluded a visit to Kuwait, said that the Soviet Union believes in a durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East to be implemented under United Nations umbrella. Mr. Petrovsky also refuted Israel's claims and false reports about intention of opening the door to Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel, which we consider as a blow to the dreams of the Israeli leadership that had tried to exercise blackmail on the Israeli leadership that was to be strongly adhering to their position of no return to diplomatic relations with Israel unless the Middle East question is resolved and Israel's troops are withdrawn from the Soviet territory occupied since 1967. Moscow has realised Tel Aviv's intentions of wrecking Arab-Soviet relations through persuading the Soviet Union to allow thousands of Jews to emigrate to Israel and has moved to thwart these plots. Mr. Petrovsky's statements in Kuwait reflect the strong Arab-Soviet relations and also deal a devastating blow to Israel's dreams. We are therefore relieved and satisfied with these statements and are confident that Arab-Soviet ties will continue to develop on the basis of mutual trust and respect.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: United in sufferings and hopes

FORTY years have passed since the first invasion of Palestine and the Palestinian people continue to wait patiently until today hoping to return to their homeland. The Palestinians have been given 40,000 promises of victory and repatriation, but at the same time were exposed to divisions and disputes, as the occupied homeland continues to suffer under the yoke of colonial rule. The eyes of all Arabs are now turned to Algiers where the Palestine National Council is being held for the main aim of unifying the different groups of the Palestinian movement; and the Arabs hope that a re-union among these groups will help create a new reality and a new determination for ending the ordeal of the Palestinian people under Israeli military occupation in Palestine. We hope that the re-union that is being blended in Algiers will help to end the divisions within the Palestinian movement and help fulfil the dreams of the Palestinian people inside the occupied Arab territory, and not to serve as a tactical move by the movement at the expense of the land and the people of Palestine. The Palestinian people have been given many promises and they are waiting patiently for their fulfilment. For Jordan, the problem of the Palestinian people is a daily concern because the Jordanians have lived with the Palestinians through their sufferings and through their hopes, and have offered sacrifice and blood for the sake of the restoration of Palestinian land.

## Preserving Arab identity on the occupied territories

The following interview with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is reprinted from March issue of the Belgrade-based review of International Affairs.

Question: In the latest Five-Year Development Plan of your country, special attention is accorded to the West Bank. Could Your Royal Highness comment on this aspect?

Answer: In terms of the West Bank, our approach is basically to improve the possibilities for Arab identity in the occupied territories to compete with the Israeli economic measures. The gap in 1984 in terms of resources between the territories and the Israeli economy seems to have been, in a rather depressed year, clearly identified by the earnings of citizens working in Israel which totalled \$224 million and the remittances of citizens working in Arab countries: \$247 million, plus foreign loans and grants: \$464 million, which means a total of \$935 million. The total figure indicates the following conclusion: That foreign assistance of about \$450 million and remittances from abroad of about \$250 will be required to keep matters at the far from satisfactory status quo.

We recall that in 1984 some significant official development assistance of about \$40 million was still being provided by Arab countries. That is no more the case. So, in fact, the Joint Fund for Assistance to the occupied territories, the PLO-Jordanian Fund, ceased its activities prior to the breakdown of negotiations between Jordan and the PLO for a common formula in the acceptance of the U.N. security council resolutions 242 and 338, which would have taken us possibly to the threshold of calling for a convening by the Security Council of an international conference.

Our fear, therefore, is that with the rising pressures on the West Bank, with the decrease in assistance from Arab countries and the Palestinian communities in the Arab countries — remittances, for example, in the Gulf countries are expected to be sharply reduced to possibly 50 per cent of their 1984 level — about \$165 million need to be found just to offset the expected curtailment of these resources. To make an impact on the development of the occupied territories, we have tried to study the various sectors including human resources development which shows the need for an investment of about JD 462 million, which is about \$1,292,000,000 in the West Bank programme.

Of course, the West Bank programme is not a programme limited to five years, as is the Jordanian Development Plan, because it is not a substitute for a political end to the occupation. But it is a statement of intent. It is interdisciplinary. And, for the first time, we have agriculture,

industry, housing, construction, education, health and social development emphasised in a comprehensive interdisciplinary plan. It explores the frontiers of the possible in that we are dealing with an occupation and will have to see how far we can push back the occupation in terms of the implementation of such projects.

Financially, we have been able to encourage the re-opening of one of the branch banks of an Amman Cairo-based bank and we hope that further branch banks, of which over 31 were closed in 1967, would begin to open in the future.

The idea of Jordan as a window on the occupied territories is extremely important from a demographic point of view, because we are fearful of a major population movement from the West Bank to Jordan. We have our own problems of absorption and assimilation of population. And, such a blow to our economy, at a time when we are attempting to regionalise into eight development regions, would set us back to the difficulties that we faced in the early seventies; a refugee problem; and an economy within an economy.

So we feel fully justified in this initiative. We have attempted to involve all parties in the discussion of the plan, including the PLO which was invited to attend our last Development Conference. Unfortunately, they did not attend, but we are open to any suggestions that serve the interest of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and their identity.

We are not competing politically with anyone for the role of popularity in representing the Palestinian people. We recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and this was re-stated by His Majesty at the opening of the Parliament in November. We expect, effectively, to create here, in Jordan, a development institution which would be private and would possibly invite participation from Arab countries and funds.

So, that is the gamut of the comprehensive Jordanian plan including an organised and integrated programme which would reflect an institutional desire on the part of Jordanian investment institutions to invest in the West Bank and to develop a threshold of production and belonging on the part of West Bank occupants.

In terms of commitment, we are encouraged by the Arab funds who attended our Development Conference. And, indeed, in contacts with the European Community, on the one side, with the United States, with some of the traditional supporters of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency, in Scandinavia and elsewhere — we are encouraged to see the growing enthusiasm in sending representatives



to study projects here with Jordanian institutions and to expect that the calendar year 1987 will also reflect the seriousness of Jordan's commitment to the national budget, which to date exceeds an allocation of between \$40 and \$50 million for the occupied territories and the Arab inhabitants. Of course, this is not new because Jordan has invested annually between \$20 and \$30 million since 1967 to the Jordanian public sector and administration still functioning in the West Bank.

It is a difficult situation, possibly without parallel, but it is essential to us to develop this Arab middle ground in rolling back the frontiers of the continuing occupation. But, as I said, it cannot be seen in any way as an alternative to the recognition and respect for Palestinian legitimate rights.

Q: Jordan's policies are known for their moderation and you have yourself often talked about "centrism." Could you elaborate on these themes which appear to be the cornerstone of your country's policies?

A: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, by definition of the word "Hashemite," is centrist. The lineage of the descendants of the Prophet has always attempted to shore up difficulties and differences between different Muslim groupings. It is for that reason that we invited the dialogue between different Islamic schools of theology, including the Orthodox schools, under the aegis of the Arab Centre for Islamic Civilisation Studies. We have also received representatives of the Shia Muslim world, including most recently Iranian participation in the Centre for Theological Studies here in Amman.

We believe that the polarisation of fundamentalism in different parts of not only the Muslim

world but of the world as a whole — the Muslim and the Christian and the Jewish world — and indeed, extremism, particularly as reflected by class distinction and the underprivileged in many parts of the world, is a root cause for the violence among the young (in the Arab World, we have 50 per cent of the population under the age of 15). We feel that the so-called liberation politics tends to opt for violence and direct solutions. This is also aggravated by the absence of dialogue and of legitimacy.

The Hashemite Kingdom recognises its historical legitimacy and, consequently, His Majesty King Hussein has the prestige and standing, in addition to his own personality and moderate views, to invite dialogue between Muslims of the world and invite dialogue between Muslims and the believers in the other great religions. This has led us to the Christian-Muslim dialogue and dialogue between monotheistic religions as well as the world's great religions.

We believe it is essential that the stereotypical images of terrorism and the production of oil should erode, in terms of describing the Muslim and the Arab World. This region, at the centre of which lies Jordan, with its responsibilities towards Jerusalem in particular, a region which was the cradle of the world's civilisation, should once again resume its historic message.

In being centrist, we do not mean that we are in any way offering concessions out of weakness. On the contrary, we believe that centrist, to be protected against extremes of both ends of the spectrum, should be convincing and strong in its arguments. And it is to that end that our educational process as well as our research activities are directed.

We look forward in the months ahead to host the Organisation which the Islamic Conference decided to establish: the Islamic Academy of Science in Jordan. And we expect in September to hold a meeting between our theologians and scientists in the Muslim world to create an interface between these two disciplines, bearing heavily on and emphasising a universal view of human achievement and contribution.

Q: How did Your Royal Highness become interested in humanitarian issues?

A: It was at a meeting of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held here, in Amman, in 1981, I believe, that I made the reference to the need for a code of conduct in times of peace. So many of the concessions in the law of war are related to human rights and the Human Rights Conventions of 1948. The Red Cross movement as such, of course, took over a century to evolve and two world wars in the context of human rights. But it seemed quite clear that there is no law of peace as such.

Consequently, in discussion with these bodies, I felt the desire on their part that the United Nations General Assembly should be addressed in terms of such a code of conduct. This led me to New York, where, after my statement, I was happy to feel the receptivity of the Assembly and indeed the emphasis placed by many of the non-governmental organisations on the need for a revival of a wider perspective to move from human rights to humanitarian issues on a universal basis.

We, of course, are at the centre of many human dilemmas. The Iraq-Iran war, on the one side, the involvement of children in that war as well as in the continuing trauma and tragedy of Lebanon, the Palestine question itself — the need to emphasise "politics where people matter" is at the root of the thoughts that we have on humanitarian issues. And, once again, to consider this area not only in terms of material resources and oil and strategic trade routes, but in terms of human contribution, as the cradle of civilisation, is an all-important incentive and was the genesis of the idea we are pursuing through the Independent Commission.

Q: What is the relation of humanitarian issues to politics?

A: The expediency of political decision-making usually means crisis management. Humanitarian issues, in terms of such a broad brush on the canvas of international and universal concerns, is unique. I believe there is no other contribution that embraces, on the one side, the effects of weapons of mass destruction and, on the other side, the concerns over the future of 80 million street children. It is politically expedient to speak at a given moment of the environ-

ment or of famine in Africa. But, unfortunately, as we look at the baskets of concerns and the Helsinki Final Act, we find that these concerns to which I refer are not given priority or, if so, are not given priority in adequate depth, in adequate humanitarian depth.

In a world which is rapidly polarised between fundamentalisms and extremisms, between irreconcilable of one form or another in which the very structure of civilised dialogue is breaking down, I think to emphasise our common humanity is an investment towards the end of this century not only for ourselves but for our children and our children's children.

It is our hope that we can appeal not so much to politicians as, if that is possible, to statesmanship on the part of individuals in authority and on the part of the general public, to help us in increasing the awareness and sensitizing our decision-makers to the issues of humanity. It was the astronaut, when asked on his return: How did you feel about going to the Moon? who said: When I looked at the receding world and placed my thumb in front of it, I realised that I have nowhere else to go! I also realised how much physical injustice has been done by man to man, by man to nature.

This is the scope of humanitarian concerns that as yet has not become politically expedient. Each of these issues requires its policies. Each of these issues requires its in-depth consideration and management, and we hope that this initiative can bring us closer to a new political reality. The cycle of development in the sixties, the cycle of concern over the acts of Solferino that brought about the International Red Cross — all are things of the past. Can we consider today a cycle of humanitarian concerns? That is the question.

Q: Where do we stand with regard to the New International Humanitarian Order?

A: As far as the Order is concerned, it is very largely United Nations jargon. But, as you know, there is a certain cynicism towards the term "order": economic order, informatics order. And certainly, in presenting the Report, I think that the emphasis is more towards a Universal Declaration of Humanitarian Principles, which may or may not lead to the United Nations in its present state, invoking once again the term "order."

It is really in relating the substance of humanitarian ideals to the international body and to multilateralism in general, whether in the U.N. or elsewhere, that the work of the Independent Humanitarian Commission has been dedicated. What concerns us is not so much semantics but activating and humanising the universal concerns that have brought 27 different nationalities together to sit on this Commission.

## Philippine military keeps its taste for politics

By Philip Melchior  
 Reuters

MANILA — Like genies escaped from their bottles, dissident soldiers in the Philippine army have developed a taste for politics which neither government nor generals seem able to make them forget.

The politicisation of the military peaked with the army-led, civilian-backed overthrow in February last year of President Ferdinand Marcos and his replacement by Corason Aquino. That coup was acceptable. It was led by top generals and the defence minister and backed by millions of ordinary Filipinos who turned a small army rebellion into a vast but near bloodless "people power" revolution.

Four coup attempts and mutinies later, dissident soldiers are still taking on the government and neither Aquino nor her military chiefs appear to have either the will or the power to make them return to their barracks.

More than 100 officers and men from the army and air force are still waiting to face "the full force of the law" Aquino promised after loyal troops crushed a coup attempt in late January. There has been little sign of the "justice and retribution" she vowed to extract from the mutineers and other investigations into military misdeeds also appear to be going nowhere.

Last month's bombing at the Philippine Military Academy in the mountain city Baguio is still being probed but investigators, who have quizzed more than 100 suspects, have acknowledged they have little chance of bringing charges.

The bombing, which killed four people and injured 40, was termed an assassination attempt by Aquino and has been blamed on military mavericks loyal to Marcos.

None of the pocket rebellions, riddled with elements of farce and macho posturing, have looked serious enough to topple



Aquino or even make her wobble.

But there is increasing cynicism amongst a public which still adores "Cory," about her true control of the military.

A leading Manila newspaper predicted after the short-lived Easter rebellion that the handful of soldiers who seized army headquarters would also escape lightly, despite Aquino's orders to "throw the book" at them.

The army was like an over-indulgent parent with hyperactive children, treating coup plots and rebellions like "adolescent waywardness," the Philippine Daily Inquirer complained.

Political and military analysts say the ill-disciplined, rag-tag army inherited from Marcos is at the root of the problem. Troops are poorly educated and equipped and often earn less than a housemaid. They are still veterans of Marcos' 20 year rule when the army was kept in line by his personal patronage and loyalty to him was above what many regarded as the good of the country.

It was made worse during the "people power" revolt and not helped by Juan Ponce Enrile — the defence minister who helped install Aquino but openly challenged her months later and lost his job in a power struggle.

"Johnny Enrile has a lot to answer for," one senior Western diplomat told Reuters. "He led his followers in the army to believe they had a legitimate place in the political system and they felt because they did it once (when Marcos was deposed) they can do it again."

Analysts agree Aquino must carry out her threats to get tough if she is to stop the sputtering rebellions, rumoured and actual. They also recognise that cracking down could simply increase the restiveness which has simmered inside the 150,000 regular army since Marcos fled to his exile in Hawaii.

"It's a problem for which there is no easy answer," one said.

Analysts say they expect more unrest within the military as the country returns to full democracy with congressional election next

month and local polls in August.

On the line, they say, is not Aquino's short-term survival as much as her long-term credibility. "It can't be good for any government that the military has all these things going on all the time and appears to be unable to do anything about it," another diplomat said.

Although the coups are likely only to help "Cory's" candidates in the May 11 election, the opposition is making political capital out of Aquino's apparent impotence.

"This is the only government I know where soldiers are on full alert every weekend," Marcos supporter and senatorial candidate Pacifico de Leon said.

Independent analysts say the rebellions also underline the basic fragility of Aquino's administration. The ever-present fear is that a lone assassin in a country full of guns could penetrate the security net surrounding her.

## Detached analysis

Suez 1956: an Egyptian perspective

By Mahmoud Fawzi  
 Shorouk International, London 1987

IN his introduction Dr. Fawzi notes that, of the three foreign ministers who were asked by the U.N.'s Security Council to meet privately with Dag Hammarskjöld on the Suez dispute, two — Christian Pineau and Selwyn Lloyd — have already published their memoirs. "So, even if reluctantly, I must go ahead with this task, and while doing it I might as well keep smiling." In fact his posthumous book is very different from the other two, being less concerned with his personal role in the crisis and more with a detached analysis of their significance. "He writes with extraordinary objectivity and entirely without moral judgements or any appearance of indignation against the aggressors of 1956."

### BOOK REVIEW

This detachment extends to his relations with President Nasser, with whom his relationship is nowhere described and who receives no explicit praise or blame. Only twice does Dr. Fawzi hint at differences of opinion with his leader. First when, in criticising the Western powers for avoiding any overt approach in the years before 1956 to the problem of the Canal's future, for fear of provoking Soviet intervention, he says "it might have been better to have tried to keep it in check around the unemotional negotiating table than to suffer the consequences of an Egyptian policy of unilateral rapprochement with Moscow." (Incidentally he assumes that the idea of a conference in 1954 to consider the future of the Canal came to nothing because of British resistance, whereas in fact it was advocated confidentially by both Britain and France but inflexibly opposed by the United States.)

The second and rather less veiled, though still not explicit, criticism of Nasser occurs in the context of the Egyptian demand in 1967 for the withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from Sinai with its disastrous consequences. "I persistently reminded Cairo and the representatives of some other Arab capitals that the matter of UNEF withdrawal should come after and not before we were ready." In this connection he also associates himself with those who have criticised U Thant for his precipitate acceptance of the Egyptian demand: "What would Hammarskjöld have done," he asks, "and what course would events have taken had he and not Thant been present?"

In short this book shows convincingly that the dispassionate and philosophical nature of Dr. Fawzi's public personality was a true reflection of his mind.

— Middle East International, London.

Harold Beeley

### Correction

Due to a typing error, there was a distortion in the meaning of a paragraph in Rami Khouri's column in yesterday's Jordan Times. The eighth paragraph of the biweekly column, entitled "The PNC and Qalqilya's trees," should have read as follows: "The PLO has never had it easy. It has always had to struggle against formidable foes in the Israeli-American camp and simultaneously has had to work hard to maintain its independence from Arab parties. It is worth noting, this time around, the PLO is still independent, still meeting, still stressing national dialogue and unity, ..." The word *noting* was mistakenly typed *nothing* in yesterday's article. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

سكنا من الجليل



## Europe pumps billions of dollars into research

By Peter Millership

**REUTERS**  
LONDON — In 1903 it cost 12 men just \$28,000 to form the Ford Motor Company and pioneer the mass-produced motor car.

Today, it costs Ford well over \$1 billion to bring a new model to the market.

Modern companies face huge research and development costs in the launch of new products ranging from cars to drugs to space shuttles.

And, as the advance of technology has accelerated, the costs and risks are so great that mergers and collaboration across national frontiers may be the only way to bear them.

Car assembly lines using robotics have come a long way since Henry Ford introduced his "Model T."

Britain's Jaguar cars says, for instance, that it spent seven years and £200 million (\$320 million) on its latest range of luxury saloons.

BMW of West Germany spent eight years and about two billion marks (\$1.1 billion) remodelling its 7-series, although it says this is only an estimate.

"Development costs have certainly risen over the years as a result of the greater complexity of today's automobiles," a spokesman said.

Micro-electronics are now a standard feature in most top-quality cars. New engineering standards, such as anti-lock brake systems, added to development costs over the years.

Jaguar's spokesman said: "We are trying to follow the example set by Mercedes ploughing 10 per cent of sales revenue each year back into new facilities and advanced technology."

Philips, the electronics giant, trail-blazed research on the pre-recorded cassette more than 20 years ago and the compact disc just recently.

Sales leapt by more than 600 per cent to 55 billion guilders (\$27.5 billion) in 1986 compared with 20 years ago. Research costs were also bigger but almost unchanged in terms of turnover at 7.3 per cent of sales in 1986 against 6.5 in 1965.

The company reckons to spend roughly \$45 million a week on research and has said it is vital that European electronics companies pool knowledge if they are to survive.

Lucas Industries, the British car component supplier, spent £90 million (\$144 million) last year on research and development compared with £26 million (\$41.6 million) a decade ago. The 1986 research and development expenditure represents six per

cent of turnover.

A spokesman said that Lucas, over a century old and known particularly for car bulbs, now supplies far more sophisticated products such as microprocessor systems for engine management.

Costs in the war of the skies are hefty.

The world's top three aircraft manufacturers are spending several billion dollars as they race to develop a new generation of long-range airliners seating about 300 people.

McDonnell Douglas and Boeing of the United States and Europe's Airbus consortium face a long and costly fight for the potentially huge market.

British Aerospace spent £430 million (\$688 million) last year compared with turnover of £3 billion (\$2.56 billion).

The British and West German governments have been asked to pump about \$1.5 billion into the Airbus project to build its A340 aircraft. Both have expressed concern that the market for a new workhorse might be too small for two new long-range jets.

McDonnell Douglas said it would spend \$1.4 billion by the time its MD-11 jetliner rolls off the assembly lines in early 1990. This includes \$500 million for development costs and the rest for tooling, inventory and labour.

Boeing, the Seattle-based industry leader, is expected to introduce an offshoot of its 747 to compete in the market.

Investment gets heavier in space projects. The initial development phase of the Hermes shuttle project will cost about \$40 million.

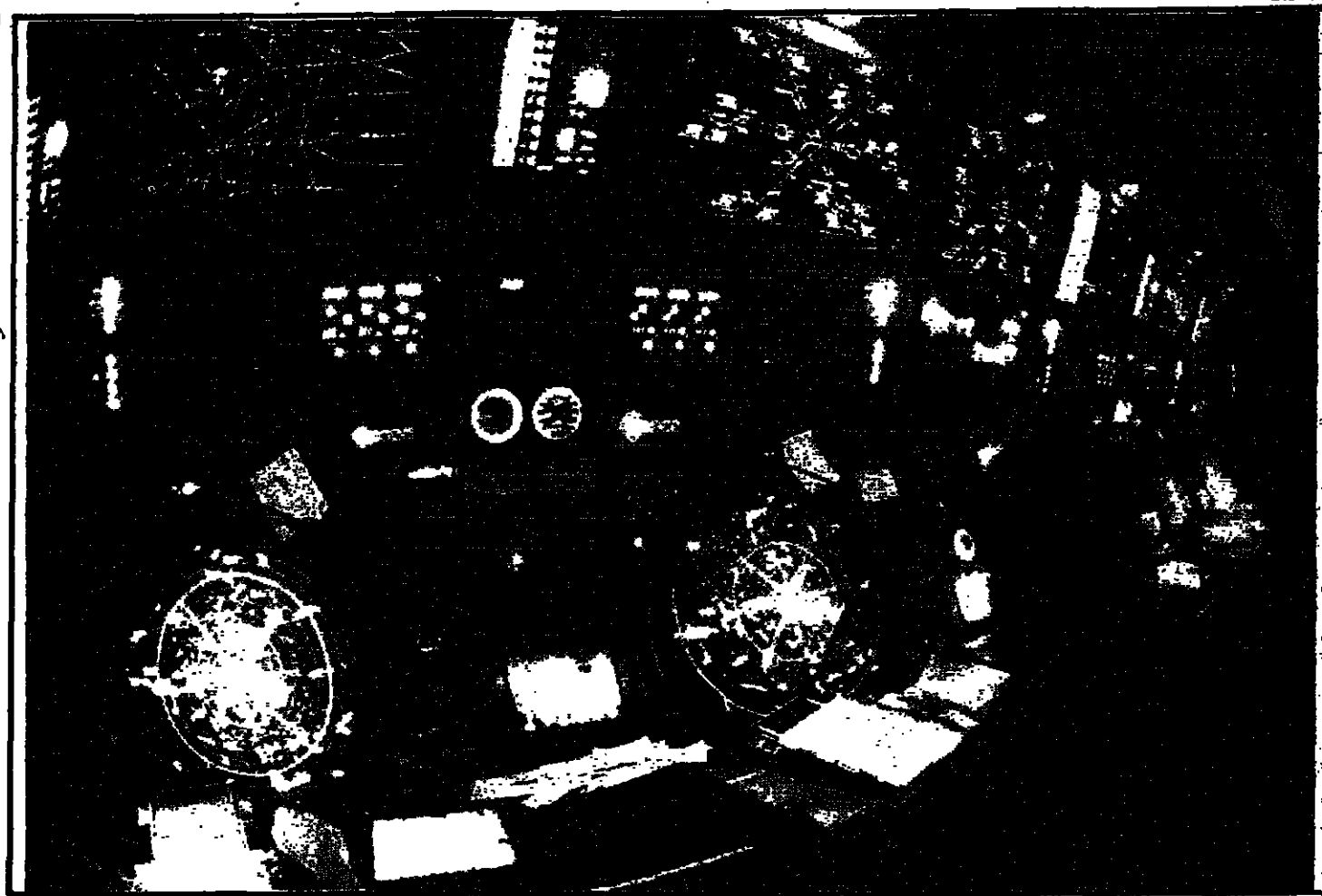
"It's absolutely essential that some companies spend vast sums on research and development," said Sidney Rennett, an analyst with London stockbroker Savory Milne.

In the field of medical research, Wellcome, whose shares have been boosted on the London stock exchange because of their new AIDS drug, spent 13.2 per cent of group turnover or £132.5 million (\$82.8 million) in 1986.

Sir Alexander Fleming's laboratory, where he discovered penicillin in 1928, contrasts starkly with the sophisticated research facilities of Wellcome which last month became the only company in the world to have an approved treatment for the deadly AIDS virus.

Wellcome is also the only company to have an approved drug for the sexually-transmitted herpes disease, a spokesman said.

The company maintains an anti-viral unit. Its scientists are carrying out further work on AIDS and cancer.



Sky highways and the airplanes flying them show up on maps and round monitoring screens at the federal Air Route Traffic Control Centre near Washington, D.C. Controllers at 20 such centres throughout the contiguous United States are responsible for the safe

flow of traffic in the nation's airways. Together they handled a record 33.6 million flights in 1986. The 330,000 nautical miles of U.S. airways are the busiest in the world.

## Overpasses, bottlenecks, detours: U.S. sky highways busy busy busy

By Joy Aschenbach  
National Geographic

LEESBURG, Virginia — "Delta 429, proceed direct Pulaski on course. Continental 615, climb and maintain flight level 310 (31,000 feet). American 946, increase your descent. USAir 410, contact Washington Centre now."

"It's the start of afternoon rush hour in some of the nation's busiest airways."

The crisp commands from a controller at the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Centre near Leesburg are part of the nationwide system that keeps planes from flying into one another while in the most heavily travelled airways in the world — the skies over the conterminous 48 states.

1986 marks new high

The 20 federal air route control centres responsible for the safe flow of traffic together logged a record 33.6 million flights in 1986. The four busiest centres, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, and Washington, each handled more than 2 million.

A complicated network of invisible highways and superhighways is suspended in midair —

complete with aerial equivalents of underpasses, overpasses, access lanes, dangerous intersections, bottlenecks, detours, and morning and evening rush hours.

Unlike highways on the ground, airways are three-dimensional and multilayered, stacked one on top of the other up to 45,000 feet. Above that altitude, only the Concorde, special military aircraft, and spy planes routinely fly.

More than 330,000 nautical miles of controlled airways crisscross the skies as part of the National Airspace System. The Federal Aviation Administration has divided them into nearly 900 numbered routes.

Are we running out of airspace? "No, it's a big sky up there," says Charles R. Reavis, manager of Washington Centre. "But there are times during the day when the system is taxed in places." In Washington Centre airspace, which extends from northern New Jersey to South Carolina, about 60 per cent of the traffic funnels through the airways between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sky highways are officially 8 miles wide, and planes are supposed to fly straight down the "centerline," or as close to it as possible.

Airways are split into low-altitude (V) routes, below 18,000 feet, and high-altitude jet (J) routes, both with their own sets of maps and rules of the road.

Non-commercial pilots flying low-altitude routes, for instance, are not required to file flight plans and frequently fly under visual flight rules. "See and avoid" other aircraft. At high altitudes, all aircraft fly under instrument flight rules, requiring an approved flight plan and en route radar control to the 20 FAA centres.

Casanova comes first

Airline jets taking off from Washington and Baltimore airports — heading west or south-west — must first fly over Casanova, Virginia and then head out J42 to Dallas, or turn left onto J48 for Atlanta, or bear right to J149 for Chicago.

Casanova is a "fix point," along with Pulaski, and more than 1,000 other VORTAC (VHF omnidirectional range tactical) stations throughout the country. These ground-based radio navigation aids signal pilots and their traffic controllers with the precise position of the plane. Air routes run from VORTAC to VORTAC, and planes fly from one station to the next, unless cleared by the controller to bypass when traffic is light.

To keep aircraft safely separated while in the airways, the FAA requires them to stay at least five miles apart — fore and aft, wing tip to wing tip. At jet speed, five miles is just seconds of flying time.

Aircraft flying below 29,000 feet must be 1,000 feet apart vertically; up where the air is thinner, above 29,000 feet, a minimum of 2,000 feet is considered safe.

To avoid head-on midair collisions, eastbound planes fly at

even altitudes (22,000 feet, for example); those heading west fly at odd altitudes. But, above 29,000 feet, they fly only at alternating odd altitudes.

The two biggest influences on the airways in the last decade have been the 1978 deregulation of the airlines and the 1981 air traffic controllers strike.

With more planes in the sky and fewer controllers, aircraft are being kept farther apart than the minimum five miles, often 10 to 20 miles, sometimes as much as 40 miles. The airline industry is pressuring the FAA to reduce these "in-trail" restrictions and move more planes more speedily through the airways.

Safer waiting on ground

For safety's sake since the strike, the FAA also has stopped airborne holding. Instead it has put the "bumper-to-bumper" traffic on the ground, waiting at airports.

"If there's bad fog in New York, we'll hold a transcontinental flight on the ground in Los Angeles. If New York can land only 20 planes an hour, we'll make sure only 20 get there," says James H. Loos, FAA technical adviser for air traffic.

Such decisions are made by Central Flow Control at FAA headquarters, which monitors airways nationwide and has taken a more active role since the strike.

To open up congested East Coast coast airways, where traffic is the heaviest in the nation, the FAA added some new routings in early 1987.

"On the ground, it would be like putting parallel interstates along the New Jersey Turnpike from New York to Washington," Reavis says. "There was only one jet route down the Shenandoah Valley, above Interstate 81. Now there are three."

## Max Gordon — jazz legend of the nightclub world

By Ted Goldman  
Reuters

NEW YORK — By his own account, Max Gordon, the diminutive octogenarian hipster who founded and still runs the oldest, best-known jazz club in the world, is not his idea of what a nightclub owner should look like.

"Club owners are like head waiters — smooth and tall and groomed," says Gordon, who habitually wears an oversized tweed jacket and faded flannel shirt on his nightly visits to the Village Vanguard, the dim basement club he started in New York's Greenwich Village 52 years ago.

"I opened the place with no money. How do you open a club with no money?" he asks. "I don't know."

Gordon has bright eyes and long, white, angel-fine hair, wears black glasses with large lenses and smokes 50-cent cigars. He looks very fragile but walks with his head perfectly erect.

In jazz circles Max is a legend. A feisty nightclub owner whose stage has helped launch the careers of countless stars and who has befriended dozens of others, including bassist Charles Mingus and pianist Bill Evans, two of the most influential jazz musicians of the 1960s.

The Vanguard's longevity on the jazz scene, where nightclubs can disappear and be forgotten within a week, is outweighed only by the impressive age of Max himself.

"In the early years it used to be a tough business," he told Reuters in an interview. "But I've learned how to run a club. I'm a lucky son-of-a-bitch... Guys get sick, musicians die young. I'm 85 my next birthday."

In the years just before and after World War II, jazz was played in dozens of well-known New York clubs. There were live radio broadcasts from the Royal Roost and Birdland, the honorary home of Charles (Yardbird) Parker that has lately become a sleazy Broadway strip joint.

Of those venerable clubs only the Vanguard — walls crammed with hundreds of photos and record albums of the countless recording sessions there — remains.

"My mother wanted me to be a lawyer. Poor Jewish families wanted a lawyer in the family. So I left Portland and went to Columbia (law school) but I knew I wouldn't stay," he recalled.

After several years of odd jobs, Gordon met an impulsive waitress who talked him into opening a Bohemian style coffee house, complete with poetry readings.

The waitress disappeared a week later, but Gordon kept going, and after a year opened the Vanguard nearby, a former speakeasy whose kitchen still doubles as the office.

With its dirty carpet, tables stained by cigarette burns, and dingy red curtain lining the back of the bandstand, the Vanguard looks no different now from when it first opened here in 1935.

The legendary acoustics of the Vanguard — groups frequently play with no microphones — are in part due to its thin, triangular shape, which comes to a point at the stage.

"It's a jazz club. It's shaped like one. It sounds like one. It looks like one," Gordon said.

In its early years the Vanguard played host to comedians and folk singers but it always featured jazz, and has done so exclusively for probably 20 years now.

"(Charles) Mingus tore the front door off one night and threw it down the stairs because he wanted to draw on his pay."

"John Coltrane never used to talk very much. He was quiet, very shy. But on his way to the men's room there'd be eight musicians standing around talking to him."

"Pearl Bailey," Gordon remembers, "learned her business here."

"People come down here to hear the music. This is it — the music. Not to mess around."

Born in Lithuania, Gordon came to America in 1908 with his parents, brother and two sisters. While his brother became a

rabbi, Max earned a literature degree from the local college before setting out for New York.

He didn't get married until he was in his mid-40s — "It took me that long to collect my thoughts."

Gordon's musical tastes are wide-ranging but not eclectic. "I don't consider myself an expert. But I'm getting better at it," he says.

His current lease runs out in three years, and then "I'll sell it or give it away or close it up," he says.

He looks surprised when asked if he has any regrets.

"Why should I have any regrets?" he asks. "I don't turn somersaults but I got to feel pretty good... I've created something I can respect."

In 1980 Gordon published his autobiography, "Live at the Village Vanguard," which he wrote out entirely by hand.

At the next table 12 Japanese businessmen in suits are downing beer from the bottles. One of the customers approaches and asks Max for his autograph. He signs it, in a broad, shaky, spirited hand: "To Mr. Suzuki. Best wishes and love. Max Gordon."

## Despite weak oil price, Kuwait seems to assure prosperity

By Rory Channing  
Reuters

KUWAIT — Oil prices have slumped, the Gulf war rages on its doorstep, and Kuwait has felt the pinch.

But economic downturn is a relative term in a Gulf emirate whose desert sands hide the non-Communist world's biggest oil reserves after those of Saudi Arabia — enough to last more than 250 years at current output of about one million barrels daily.

The oil has transformed Kuwait in a generation from a remote trading and pearl-diving backwater to a cosmopolitan city state.

And the government took care during the oil bonanza of the 1970s to salt away a giant nest egg for its 1.7 million people, now worth \$80 billion in savings at home and abroad.

More than half the money is lodged in a special "posterity" fund set up 10 years ago for future generations, and which by law may not be touched before the end of the century.

Well before then — some economists predict by the start of the 1990s — the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) of which Kuwait is a founder member, is expected to be back in control of world oil markets.

And there are already signs that the economy is starting to pull out from a difficult period.

The oil windfall, for all its benefits, generated growing pains even when Kuwait was enjoying double-digit growth late in the 1970s.

Focusing on oil and failing to diversify, it found itself no more immune to recession than poor Third World countries.

Only the degree of discomfort differs.

It still enjoys one of the world's top incomes per capita. Latest official estimates put the figure at 4,100 dinars (\$15,000) in 1985.

Spending habits and living standards were also hit by a spectacular crash in local stock mar-

kets in 1982. A speculative forward trading spree, funded by post-dated cheques also used as collateral in general consumer buying, left burned investors owing around \$95 billion in debt.

The Iraq-Iran war cast a pall over the economy, scaring off potential local investment and ravaging two formerly thriving re-export markets for Kuwait.

The economy shrank 19 per cent last year after taking account of inflation, following an 8.0 per cent contraction in 1985, bankers and economists say.

But they now see encouraging signs for a rebound.

They cite stronger oil prices, up from \$10 a barrel last summer to around \$18 now, and a levelling off in a fall in imports — a barometer of consumer demand.

Positive factors also include low inflation. Measured in terms of consumer prices, inflation last year was estimated at only one per cent after 1.5 per cent in 1985.

The public mood is more buoyant, too, since the central bank last September introduced a new, comprehensive rescheduling scheme to clear the five-year-old stock market debt overhang.

The state had already taken several steps to try to resolve the problem, including watering down much of the debt. But big amounts are still owed by individuals and companies to other investors and banks which gave them credit.

Of 4.3 billion dinars (\$15.7 billion) in outstanding bank credit at the end of 1986, bankers estimated the chances of repayment on one-quarter to one-third were bad or doubtful.

The new settlement plan enables banks to reschedule problematic loans over 10-15 years, some of it interest-free, depending on whether debtors have regular cash flows or not.

The government has also pledged to stand by the banks, a boost for the financial sector which is the biggest after oil, and guaranteed shareholder and depositor rights.

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## Japan's Seko pulls away from field to win Boston Marathon

**BOSTON (AP)** — Japan's Toshihiko Seko has learned to turn the "heartbreak" of defeat in the Boston Marathon into breaking the hearts of his opponents.

In 1979, when Seko ran the Boston Marathon for the first time, American Bill Rodgers ran away from him on famed Heartbreak Hill to win the race in an American and course record 2 hours, 9 minutes, 27 seconds.

In Seko's next appearance in the Boston Marathon, in 1981, he made his move on Heartbreak Hill, passing Rodgers on the downgrade, then overtaking Craig Virgin a short time later and winning in 2:09:26, one second under Rodgers' course record.

On Monday, in his third Boston Marathon, Seko virtually repeated his 1981 performance.

Following a relatively slow early pace, Seko built a lead of about 70 yards (metres) at the top of Heartbreak Hill, then increased it to some 100 yards on the downgrade.

After that, he steadily pulled away to win the race for the second time, beating runner-up Steve Jones of Wales by about 280 yards in 2:11:50.

The victory, Seko's eighth in his last nine marathons since the Boston defeat eight years ago, was gratifying. The time was disappointing, especially since an outstanding field had been assembled.

With such noted fast pacemakers as Jones, Geoff Smith of England and Juma Ikangaa of Tanzania in the field, some observers thought that the world best of 2:07:12, set by Carlos Lopes of Portugal on April 20, 1985, would

be broken. Rose Mota of Portugal, the bronze medalist in the 1984 Olympics, led from start to finish to win the women's race in 2 hours, 25 minutes, 21 seconds.

Runner-up Agnes Pardans of Belgium was timed in 2:29:53. Ria Van Landeghem, also of Belgium, was third in 2:29:58.

"She does hope that next year the women's field is as good and as competitive as the men's field," Mota's interpreter said. "She is used to running marathons by herself," the interpreter said. "She is very pleased with her own performance."

Mota and Seko each won \$40,000 and a \$31,000 car.

A pack of 10 to 20 men clung together at the front for 20 miles (32 kilometres) as Seko averaged 5:04 per mile. He covered each of the next four miles in less than five minutes and crossed the finish line 47 seconds before Jones, who was timed in 2:12:37. Smith, like Jones from Great Britain, was third in 2:12:42.

Dave Gordon, the first American finisher, came in fourth in 2:13:30.

Seko frequently glanced back over his shoulder after going in front only to find no one close enough to threaten his lead.

"When Seko made his move there was still enough left in the race for anything to happen," Jones said. "Seko was better prepared for the last six miles."

At the top of Heartbreak Hill, about 21 miles into the race, Seko

led by 100 yards (metres). At 23 miles, his lead was 350 yards (metres). He won by 280.

Tomoyuki Taniguchi of Japan was fifth, 10 seconds behind Gordon, and De Castella of Australia was sixth in 2:14:24. Ikangaa was 11th, Treacy 14th and four-time Boston winner Bill Rodgers 15th.

The start was decidedly unsatisfactory.

With two marathon workers, one policeman and a rope still in front of the runners, the starting gun sounded. They scattered as the marathoners took off and De Castella fell when his foot was entangled in the rope. He rolled over and got back up, skinning his knees and elbows but avoiding a trampling.

"You've got to be prepared for things like that to happen," he said. "I don't think it affected me. It happened very early in the race and I got up quickly."

Guy Morse, administrator of the Boston Athletic Association which organises the event, said race personnel apparently spent too much time trying to keep the runners behind the starting line.

The wheelchair racers, who started 15 minutes earlier, also had problems.

Two-time winner Jim Knab's chair apparently hit a small bump in the road, according to several accounts. He overturned, setting off a chain reaction in which other racers swerved to avoid him. At least four chairs overturned and two competitors received minor injuries.

Andre Viger of Quebec also overturned, but he regained his chair and went on to win the race for the second consecutive year and third time in four years.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Japanese motorcycles to North Pole

**TOKYO (R)** — A 36-year-old Japanese man has reached the North Pole on a motorcycle. Backers here said Tuesday that Shinji Kazama rode and pushed his 200-CC motorcycle through 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles) of snow and freezing temperatures for 44 days. It was the first time a motorbike was used to get to the North Pole, a spokesman said. Kazama, who runs a motorcycle equipment shop, was accompanied by two countrymen, a cameraman and a climber, and two Eskimo guides. The four travelled on snowmobiles and sleds. They set off from Canada's Ward Hunt Island on March 8.

### Reggi, Jaeger advance in Houston tennis

**HOUSTON (R)** — Seventh-seeded Raffaella Reggi of Italy breezed through her opening round match in just 50 minutes with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over American Wendy White in the \$150,000 Houston Women's Tennis Championship. White took an early 3-1 lead in the first set before the Italian found her rhythm and reeled off five straight games. Reggi then raced through the second set after dropping the opening game, winning six consecutive games and breaking White's serve three times. Unseeded Andrew Jaeger, playing in only her second tournament in two years after being away from competitive tennis due to a series of health problems and injuries, showed some of the tenacity that took her to the Wimbledon final in 1983 when she eliminated unseeded fellow American Mary Lou Piatek 4-6, 6-0, 6-4.

### Cyclist Lemond shot in accident

**SACRAMENTO, California (AP)** — Greg Lemond, the only American to win the Tour de France bicycle race, has been wounded in a hunting accident but surgeons say he should be able to resume his career. County Sheriff's Capt. Larry Newman said Lemond, 25, found himself in the line of fire Monday morning when a friend fired a shotgun at a Turkey near Lincoln, about 20 miles (32 kilometres) northeast of Sacramento. Surgeons said 10 to 30 pellets of unknown caliber struck Lemond in the right side and back above the kidney area.

### Americans, Greeks climb Nepal peak

**KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)** — Three Americans and three Greeks have climbed the 6,812-metre (22,343-foot) Mount Ama Dablam via two different routes, Nepal's Ministry of Tourism said Tuesday. Both groups reached the peak Friday — the Americans via the southwest ridge and the Greeks, accompanied by a Nepalese Sherpa guide, via the southeast ridge, the ministry said. The three Greek climbers are Michail Tsoukias, 31, an architectural engineer from Athens, Christos Lambris, 25, a student from Athens, and Kostantinos Manalis, 27, a surveyor, from Kavala. The Americans reached the top of Ama Dablam, one of the most picturesque peaks in the Nepal Himalayas, after a 10-hour climb from a high altitude camp at 6,756 metres (20,600 feet), and spent about 90 minutes on the summit.

### U.S. dominates Britain in motorcycle race

**DONINGTON PARK, England (R)** — American riders handed Britain for the third year running in the annual Trans-Atlantic Trophy Motorcycling Challenge Series. The U.S. team, brilliantly led by Kevin Schwantz and Wayne Rainey, won all nine races to regain by the massive margin of 183 points the title they last held in 1984. It was their sixth victory in the 17-year history of the event and easily their most emphatic. The result was never in doubt after the Americans had forged ahead in the first six races at Brands Hatch on Good Friday and Donington Saturday. Monday they showed no sign of easing up. Suzuki-riding Schwantz emerged as the leading points scorer for the second year, running, piling up four wins and five seconds to pip his big rival Rainey, mounted on a Honda, by 3.5 points. Rainey had the consolation of registering the most wins — five.

## Defending champ Nystrom ousted in Monte Carlo

**MONTE CARLO (R)** — Titleholder Joakim Nystrom was knocked out on his first appearance in this year's Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament Tuesday by Austrian Thomas Muster. Nystrom, seeded eighth, looked set for a quick win when he reeled off the first seven games, but the 19-year-old Austrian fought back to take their second round clash 0-6, 6-3, 7-6.

It was the second bad day for past Monte Carlo champions after Nystrom's compatriot Henrik Sundstrom, victor in 1984, was ousted in the first round by American Jay Berger. Nystrom and Muster treated the crowd to an exciting duel, lasting over two hours on a glorious sunny day.

The tide turned when Muster broke the Swede three times in a row to take the second set. Left-hander Muster used his powerful forehand to increasingly deadly effect as his confidence grew, and he seized the advantage with a 3-0 lead in the final set.

Nystrom broke back to 3-4 but later failed to convert three break points which would have put him 6-5 up with his service to come. Everything went right for Muster in the tie-break as he drilled his aggressive forehands home to take it 7-1 and earn a third round encounter with ninth seed Martin Jaite of Argentina, who beat Czechoslovakia's Tomas Smid 6-4, 6-2.

## English soccer roundup

## Everton pulls within sight of league title

**LONDON (AP)** — Wayne Clarke scored a second half hat-trick as Everton crushed Newcastle United 3-0 and moved closer to its second English League soccer title in three seasons.

Clarke's goals stretched Everton's lead to a commanding six points in the championship race, with a game in hand over defending champion Liverpool.

Liverpool, which hosts Everton next Saturday, lost 0-1 at Manchester United, Peter Davenport scoring with just two minutes remaining.

It was the champion's fifth loss in six matches.

Tottenham Hotspur's faint hopes of the title were dashed as it went down 1-2 at West Ham, for whom Tony Cottee scored the winning goal with a hotly disputed penalty.

The bottom two clubs, Manchester City and Aston Villa, both lost again and edged closer to Division Two.

City went down 1-2 at Sheffield Wednesday while Villa lost 0-3 at Charlton, another side battling against relegation. Leicester City moved into the bottom four after losing 1-4 at Arsenal.

The bottom three teams are automatically relegated at the end of the season, with the top two in the Second Division going up.

Under a new playoff system, the side finishing fourth from bottom in the First Division goes into a mini-tournament against the teams ending in third, fourth and fifth place in Division Two. Only one of those four end up playing in division One next season.

Everton 3 Newcastle 0 (0-0)

Missing two of its most influ-

tial midfielders, Peter Reid and Kevin Sheedy, Everton struggled to find a way through Newcastle's defence in the first half at Goodison Park, as visiting goalkeeper Martin Thomas made fine saves from Adrian Heath, Ian Snodin and Alan Harper. But Clarke broke the deadlock three minutes after halftime and added two further goals in the last nine minutes to give Everton its seventh successive victory.

Manchester United 1 Liverpool 0 (0-0)

Peter Davenport virtually ended Liverpool's fading hope of retaining its league title by rapping home a drive from the edge of the box with only two minutes left. In a disappointing game played in front of a 54,103 crowd, the largest in the league this season, the first half produced no chances.

Coventry 4 Queens Park Rangers 1 (1-0)

F.A. Cup finalist Coventry continued its best ever First Division season in fine style on the back of two Cynille Regis goals. Micky Gynn opened the score after 44 minutes and although Gary Bannister equalised three minutes into the second, Coventry was soon back in front.

West Ham 2 Tottenham 1 (1-0)

A hotly disputed second half penalty by Tony Cottee all but ended Tottenham's slim hopes of winning the title for the first time in 26 years. Spurs captain Richard Gough was adjudged to have fouled Stewart Robson, who spread his arms out as he plunged to the ground. Tony Cottee drove home the penalty for the 62nd-minute winner.

Arsenal 4 Leicester 1 (2-1)

Two goals by Martin Hayes

upstaged Alan Smith's first appearance at Arsenal since the announcement of his transfer to the north London club. Smith is staying with Leicester until the end of the season to try and help the club avoid relegation. His team matched Arsenal for skill and commitment but fell apart after Hayes netted a dubiously-awarded penalty 10 minutes before halftime.

Charlton 3 Aston Villa 0 (2-0)

An important battle between two relegation-threatened teams ended with an emphatic Charlton victory. After Villa had missed two easy chances, Peter Shirdiff scored after five minutes and Mark Stuart made it 2-0 for Charlton after 24.

Oxford 3 Wimbledon 1 (2-0)

Oxford kept alive its hopes of avoiding relegation after taking a two-goal halftime lead through Dean Saunders and Billy Whithurst.

Nottingham Forest 1 Norwich 1 (0-0)

Nigel Clough saved Nottingham Forest when he equalised 12 minutes from time. Up until then, Norwich had looked worthy winners in a tame match with nothing at stake.

Sheffield Wednesday 2 Manchester City 1 (1-1)

Sheffield Wednesday gave its First Division survival chances a big boost but at the same time condemned Manchester City to almost certain relegation.

Chelsea 1 Southampton 1 (1-0)

Pat Nevin's 38th-minute opener stood until 17 minutes from the end when Colin Clarke headed Southampton's leveller in a poor match with few goalmouth incidents.

## European cup preview

## Confident Bayern ready for Madrid

**LONDON (R)** — Bayern Munich, seeking its fourth European Cup crown, will march into the cauldron of Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium tonight armed with the swaggering confidence of their apparent.

Boostered by a 4-1 advantage from its tempestuous semifinal first-leg triumph in Munich, the West German champion and league leader has been so encouraged by a list of Spanish absences and its own resolute form that it has booked already a hotel in Vienna for the final on May 13.

If it makes it to Vienna, Bayern is likely to meet Dynamo Kiev, the Soviet champion with a reputation as the most accomplished side in Europe, in what promises to be a classic contest. Kiev, 2-1 down, faces Portuguese champion, Porto in the other semifinal.

Norbert Nachtweih, one of the stalwarts in a Bavarian defence which has conceded only 24 goals in 251 league matches this season, articulated a widely-held view when he said: "We will reach the final — 4-1 is a good result. If we don't do it with that lead, then we don't deserve to."

Although it will be without influential midfielder Lothar Matthaus, suspended following a caution in the first leg which Madrid finished with nine players, Bayern possesses enough experience to withstand the impassioned fury of the Spanish champion without perishing as so many fine teams with commanding

leads have done before.

Even so, as captain and sweeper Klaus Augenthaler admitted, its confidence will be laced with apprehension faced with Madrid's formidable record in a stadium haunted by Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento and Del Sol.

Last season, on its way to a second successive UEFA Cup triumph, Madrid overcame a 3-0 deficit to beat Internazionale Milan 5-1 in the semifinals after beating Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-0 following a 5-1 away defeat.

In the quarter-finals of this season's Champions' Cup, it overcame Red Star Belgrade 2-0 after a 4-2 defeat in Yugoslavia.

Events in Munich, where firebrand winger Juanito Gomez and defender Bernardino "Mino" Serrano were sent off, will have added further to Madrid's desperation for a seventh win in the premier tournament.

Madrid's Iberian cousin Porto, who kicks off in the Ukraine with a slender advantage over host Dynamo Kiev, will need to spring a surprise if it is to enjoy a visit to the Austrian capital next month.

Though Kiev is out of sorts in the Soviet League and showing signs of fatigue, it remains a team of great class intent on becoming the first Soviet club to win the

European Cup.

The players who formed the nucleus of the Soviet Union's World Cup squad, following its Cup Winners' Cup triumph last season, will, however, need to be wary of Fernando Gomes and Paulo Futre who are capable of stealing a crucial away goal.

Such dangers are less worrying to Ajax Amsterdam and East Germany's Lokomotiv Leipzig favourites to meet in the Cup Winners' Cup final in Athens on May 13.

Ajax, coached by Johan Cruyff, begin its semifinal second leg against Spain's Real Zaragoza with a 3-2 lead, but will be without sweeper Johnny Bosman, sent off after scoring twice in the first leg. Zaragoza, hit by injuries, could be without Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa.

Leipzig leads French League leader Bordeaux, who hopes to have striker Jose Touré back after injury, 1-0.

In the UEFA Cup, Sweden's Gothenburg — 4-1 up after the first leg — travels to Austria to meet Swarovski Tyrol. It should survive to meet either Borussia Moenchengladbach of West Germany or Dundee United, who drew 0-0 in the first leg in Scotland, in the final.

## Kasparov, Ljubojevic earn lead in Brussels chess

**BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)** — World champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union and Yugoslav grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojevic scored crushing victories in the eighth round of the Brussels Super Grandmasters Chess Tournament.

Kasparov and Ljubojevic, who will play against each other in the ninth round, each have 6.5 points. Victor Korchnoi, a Soviet defector who now holds Swiss nationality, shares third place with Mikhail Tal of the Soviet Union.

"I don't think anyone can catch Kasparov now," said Danish grandmaster Jes Knudsen. "Kasparov is playing well. I don't think he will lose the final three rounds. Ljubojevic could still be caught if he loses to Kasparov."

Kasparov, 24, outplayed Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen in 43 moves, promoting a pawn into a queen to force resignation.

Ljubojevic, the world's sixth-ranked player, gained a big opening advantage against Korchnoi.

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Performances 12.15, 3.00, 5.00, 9.45



## Arab businessman denies role in \$640m New York swindle

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Mr. Hassan Zubaidi, a prominent Arab businessman, Tuesday denied charges by a New York prosecutor he was involved in a swindle to sell off \$640 million of allegedly fake Indonesian government bonds.

New York city prosecutor, Mr. Robert Morgenthau, announced last week that five European businessmen working with Mr. Zubaidi were arrested when they tried to sell off the bonds at a fraction of their face value to an

undercover police officer posing as a businessman.

These promissory notes are official (Indonesian) government documents and they are one hundred per cent correct. This is clearly stated on these documents by the Indonesian ambassador to Damascus, Mr. Khalid Mawardi, on the instructions of his government," Mr. Zubaidi told the Associated Press in an interview.

He added that the validity of the bonds had also been established by the Interpol headquar-

ters in Paris, which had issued a relevant notification to this effect.

"Anybody can check this fact with the Interpol headquarters in Paris," he added.

Courts in Switzerland and Belgium had also validated the bonds, following claims by "ill-intentioned people that these bonds are forged or worthless," Mr. Zubaidi said.

Mr. Zubaidi, 55, whose main business headquarters is in Beirut, also denied press reports claiming he was linked with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and that proceeds from the alleged swindle would help finance PLO operations.

"I am not connected with the PLO and I have nothing to do with the PLO," he said.

The bonds are issued in the name of the Indonesian National Defence Council and are signed by two members of the council.

Mr. Zubaidi demanded the immediate release of the five persons arrested in New York, who were acting as his agents, he said.

## Gulf Investment Corp. buys stake in pharmaceutical firm

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC), equally owned by the governments of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), said Tuesday it had bought a 20 per cent stake in a pharmaceutical company set up to reduce reliance on foreign supplies.

It said it had bought 20 million shares in the Kuwait Pharmaceutical Industries Company (KPIICO) for an undisclosed sum.

The Kuwait-based GIC was formed in 1983 to promote the diversification and expansion of the economic base of the GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"KPIICO is designed to provide an extensive range of pharmaceutical products to both government health services and the private sector through the GCC countries," GIC chief executive officer, Mr. Khalid Al Fayaz said in a statement.

KPIICO, which started production in January, was formally inaugurated this month by the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Kuwaiti Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi told the inauguration ceremony the medicine business had become a "strategic industry" but only a few drugs manufacturers dominated most of the world's markets.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6355/6365	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3220/30	Canadian dollar
	1.8080/87	West German marks
	2.0395/0405	Dutch guilders
	1.4840/50	Swiss francs
	37.44/47	Belgian francs
	6.0140/70	French francs
	1288/1289	Italian lira
	142.00/10	Japanese yen
	6.2925/75	Swedish crown
	6.7425/7475	Norwegian crowns
	6.8075/8125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	454.25/455.00	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices turned lower after the Wall Street opening, dipping to fresh lows on the day as worries about the level of the dollar sent U.S. shares and bonds lower.

At 1347 GMT the FTSE 100 index had slipped 17.7 points to Tuesday's low of 1,931.7, but had steadied to 1,932.8 by 1431 GMT.

Dealers said the dollar's weakness has stirred concern about a rise in U.S. inflation. The sharp extension on Tuesday of Monday's falls on the New York bond market helped push U.K. government bonds as much as 3/4 points lower. This depressed sentiment in a market already drifting for want of interest on the first day of trading after the long Easter weekend.

Gold shares and other related mining issues moved against the market's general trend, responding to the soaring bullion price which rose about \$15 from last Thursday's close to be set at its highest fixing for four years Tuesday morning.

London bullion traders said much of the rise in bullion was influenced by short covering as the market broke out of the anticipated trading pattern after the Easter holidays. They said the weak dollar was secondary to the technical factors.

## Gold price soars to \$459 an ounce

ZURICH (R) — Gold bullion prices soared Tuesday to their highest levels in more than four years, snapped up by investors concerned over the dollar's continuing weakness and prospects of a fresh bout of inflation.

Trading in gold — traditionally seen as a safe haven for investors in times of crisis or uncertainty — was hectic Tuesday, according to dealers in London and Zurich, Europe's main centres for trade in the metal.

As the dollar remained under pressure, gold rose as high as \$459 an ounce in London, where the price of bullion was set Tuesday morning at \$454.30, its highest fixing since Feb. 25, 1983.

Gold also opened at a four-

year high in Zurich.

Dealers said the price rise was helped by some panic "short-covering" — as traders, worried that the price might go higher, bought supplies to meet earlier commitments they had made to sell the metal.

Silver, meanwhile, rose above \$8 an ounce for the first time since August, 1984.

"The rally in precious metals clearly reflects fears about re-

newed inflation in the United States," Mr. Heinrich Looser, chief economist at Bank Julius Baer in Zurich, told Reuters.

"It also represents a continued flight from the dollar by international investors," he added.

The steady pressure on the dollar, despite concerted efforts by central banks in the major Western countries to support it, reflects mounting trade frictions between the United States and Japan and the massive U.S. trade deficit, dealers said.

The dollar eased Tuesday in Europe, to trade in a narrow range around 1.81 West German marks and 142 Japanese yen.

The trade and inflation worries

which have pressured the dollar downwards have boosted the price of gold in its internationally quoted dollar value by about 15 per cent since beginning of the year.

Some economists also say gold is regaining its traditional role as a key part of investment portfolios after several years of being out of favour.

The recent emergence of such securities as international bond issues structured to give investors the options to buy gold has also provided more opportunities to speculate.

Shares in gold mining companies rose sharply in London Tuesday while Zurich dealers

said prices were up for Swiss gold coins, reflecting good demand from small investors.

But some analysts and dealers said that, in the near term, gold is likely to drift slightly lower before steadying at just below \$450 an ounce.

Mr. Graham Birch of London brokers Kleinwort Grieveson said low inflation in many Western countries would limit any major switch by investors into gold, which does not bear interest, while sustained levels above \$450 could trigger selling by the Soviet Union, a key producer.

However, gold could settle in a \$450 to \$475 range by the end of the year, Mr. Birch added.

## Lyng warns Japan of explosive trade situation

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng, in his strongest statement to date on trade tensions, said Japanese officials did not seem to understand that the explosive situation in the U.S. Congress could lead to a harshly protectionist trade bill.

Mr. Lyng told the National Press Club of Japan he did not want to sound threatening. But he said protectionist sentiment in Congress had increased alarmingly during the past six months.

"It is a radically changed situation and is very explosive," Mr. Lyng told reporters.

"We are on the verge of some very harsh mandatory retaliatory laws which would have very serious consequences for other countries, especially Japan," he said.

Mr. Lyng's warning followed a prediction Monday by House Democratic majority leader, Mr. Thomas Foley, of Washington state that the House would approve a provision requiring trade retaliation against Japan and other countries with large trade surpluses. Representative

Foley was visiting Japan for a conference on U.S.-Japan relations.

The mandatory retaliation provision, drafted by Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president, is expected to be voted on later this month when the House debates the rice import bill.

Mr. Lyng, here for talks with Japanese officials on agricultural trade, urged Japan take steps to open markets for U.S. farm products in order to calm the protectionist furor.

"The purpose of this trip is to emphasize the fact that patience (with Japan) is beginning to be very much frayed in Washington. I cannot emphasize that enough," he said.

Mr. Lyng cited Japan's ban on

imports of rice as what he called an extreme example of protectionism.

In talks with Japanese Agriculture Minister Mutsuki Kato on Monday, Mr. Lyng and U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, urged Japan to negotiate with the United States on lifting the rice import ban.

Mr. Kato rejected the demand, citing Japan's need to maintain self-sufficiency in rice for national security reasons.

Mr. Lyng said he hoped Japan's rejection of the demand on rice did not spark a protectionist reaction in Washington, where legislation has been introduced in Congress seeking retaliation against Japan because of the rice ban.

"Our Congress is getting more and more impatient all the time

and it is getting more difficult to predict," he said.

The U.S. Rice Millers Association last year filed a trade complaint against Japan's rice import ban. Mr. Yeutter rejected the complaint, saying that Japan would have until July this year to take some action.

In his remarks Tuesday, Mr. Lyng pointedly noted Japan had not taken any action on rice and said the Reagan administration would reconsider the issue again in July or August.

Japanese officials have said they cannot open imports of rice because Japan, with a limited land area devoted to agriculture, mostly on small plots, and a large population, needs to protect domestic rice production in order to guarantee its food supply.

## Dome Petroleum sale draws wide criticism

TORONTO (AP) — Political opponents criticised the planned Amoco takeover of debt-ridden Dome Petroleum as a "black day for Canada" and urged the government Monday to block the sale to the U.S. subsidiary.

However, the conservative government headed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney welcomed the prospect of solving Dome's six-year debt crisis, and oil analysts forecast the deal would go through.

Officials from Canada's energy department met with Amoco representatives in Calgary on Sunday to outline government takeover requirements. Afterward, the government issued a release saying it "feels the ball is in Amoco's court but also feels it is good for Western Canada that the Dome issue is being resolved."

But the 5.1 billion Canadian dollar (\$3.8-billion) offer from Amoco Canada, a subsidiary of Chicago-based Amoco Corp., presented Mr. Mulroney with a political dilemma.

Engaged in free-trade talks with the United States and anxious to aid the slumping oil business, the government seemed unlikely to intervene if Dome creditors and shareholders accept Amoco's offer.

## Asians soften terms for oil exploration

BANGKOK (R) — The oil industry slump in 1986 forced Asian countries to soften their attitude towards foreign oil companies and to offer them improved concessions to avert production shortfalls, the United Nations said Tuesday.

The Bangkok-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in its annual report the recent oil price decline substantially cut exploration activity of oil companies which found it unprofitable to maintain their investments in the region.

It said oil production investment in Indonesia, an OPEC member, fell to about \$2.8 billion in 1985 from \$3.2 billion in 1983. The figure was estimated to have declined another six per cent last year.

The report said drillings of oil

deposits in Thailand numbered 11 in 1986, down from 64 the previous year. Thai Shell Exploration and Production Co. Ltd., a unit of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, announced a 30 per cent cut in its exploration and production spending last year.

It said to counter the declining output trend, India and Malaysia had reduced their demands for petroleum sharing while Indonesia cut its tax rates.

Investors in Nepal could secure a guaranteed income share of up to 87.5 per cent to cover exploration costs while Thailand is in the process of decreasing its 12.5 per cent royalty.

ESCAP said the biggest losers were major oil exporters in the region — Indonesia, Brunei, China, Malaysia and Iran — whose aggregate oil income was estimated to have fallen to about \$20

billion in 1986 from \$40 billion the previous year.

It said Indonesia's oil export earnings of \$11.6 billion in 1985 fell almost by half the next year. Iran also lost about \$6 billion, Brunei \$3.8 billion, China \$3 billion and Malaysia \$0.8 billion.

Most developing Asian countries, however, gained from lower oil import bills. The region's oil importers saved about \$8 to \$9 billion during 1985/86.

These savings considerably eased the balance of payments situation in many regional developing countries, it said.

South Korea, the Philippines, India, Thailand and Pakistan were major beneficiaries. Thailand and Pakistan saved about \$875 million and \$435 million respectively in reduced oil imports last year.

## China reaffirms support for OPEC policy

KUWAIT (R) — A Chinese minister reaffirmed Peking's support for OPEC-led efforts to restrain oil output in order to bolster world prices in a glutted market, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA reported.

It said Chemical Industries Minister Qm Zhongda, who left Kuwait Monday night after a four-day visit, told reporters: "China is limiting its oil output in line with the policy of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting

Countries (OPEC)."

China was now pumping 100 million tonnes of crude a year, equal to 2.2 million barrels per day (b/d), most of which was used locally he said. He gave no details for exports, which go to neighbouring Asian countries, mainly Japan.

China does not belong to the 13-nation OPEC but is among several non-OPEC producers which have pledged backing for its efforts to control supplies to

the market.

State Councillor Zhang Jinglin said in Kuwait last May that China would freeze exports for 1986 at the previous year's level of 30 million tonnes (600,000 b/d).

Mr. Qm said he and Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah agreed to expedite a fertilizer venture to be built in China with help from Kuwait and Tunisia.

## THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller

ACROSS

- File, port
- Unlucky child
- Freeway
- Process
- Idiot
- Unusual
- Director Kazan
- Carve bird
- Author Wister
- Swedish singer
- Youngster
- Sports shoe
- Galvanizes
- Delay
- Races
- Flower holders
- Tiresome one
- Employer
- Spurn
- Those holding power
- Affluent
- Before
- Harris
- "... Wonderful Life"
- Weathercock
- Soup server
- Author Norman
- Act
- Smiler
- Perian
- Unity
- Rapturous
- Alight
- Mail
- Grinding
- Antoinette
- Sun problem
- Alcorn's state
- Explosive
- Headliner
- Tattered
- Salamanders

DOWN

- Ground cover
- Feb. month
- Change residence
- It's knot
- Verdian
- Wish horse
- Crude
- Mars
- Becker's game
- Backside
- Smiler
- Dug for gold
- Chaplain
- Result
- Grinding
- agent
- More little
- and polish
- Year
- "Born Free"
- fores
- Song and dance
- Navigate
- Ring
- Coast bird
- Salacious look
- Make cloth
- Like a bad actor
- Defamation
- Corrupt
- Tear
- Wish
- Gaucho weapons
- Ordn
- Hair tint
- Singer John
- Sediment
- Equine
- Exult
- Grammarian's
- no-no
- 61
- 64

## Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

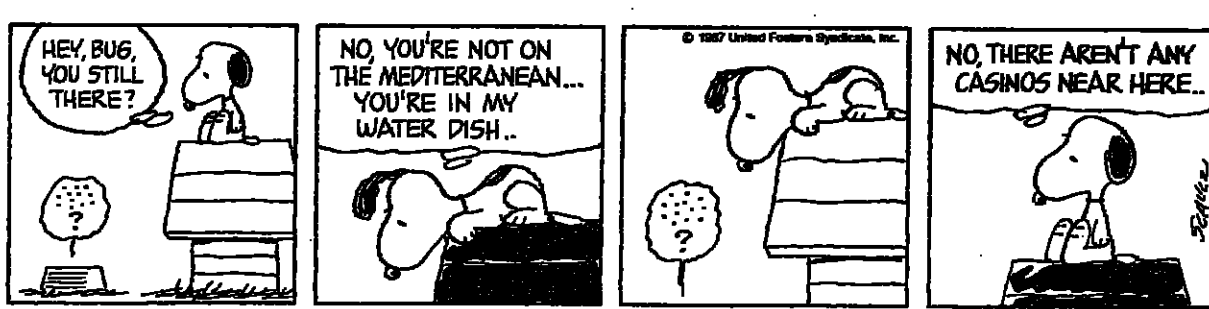
ACROSS

- FILE
- UNLUCKY
- FREEWAY
- PROCESS
- IDIOCY
- UNUSUAL
- KAZAN
- BIRD
- WISTER
- SWEDISH
- YOUNGSTER
- SPORTS
- GALVANIZES
- DELAY
- RACES
- FLOWERS
- TIRESOME
- EMPLOYER
- SPURN
- POWER
- AFFLUENT
- BEFORE
- HARRIS
- WONDERFUL
- WEATHERCOCK
- SOUP
- NORMAN
- ACT
- SMILER
- PERIAN
- UNITY
- RAPTUROUS
- ALIGHT
- MAIL
- GRINDING
- ANTOINETTE
- SUN
- ALCORN
- EXPLOSIVE
- HEADLINER
- TATTERED
- SALAMANDERS

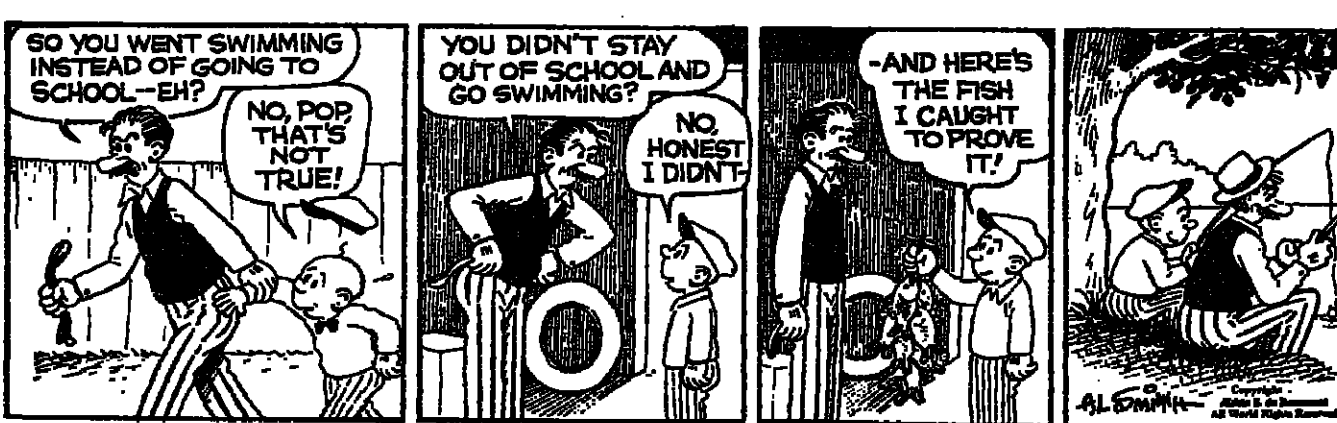
DOWN

- GROUND
- FEBRUARY
- CHANGE
- KNOT
- VERDI
- WISH
- CRUDE
- MARS
- BECKER
- BACKSIDE
- SMILER
- DUG
- CHAPLAIN
- RESULT
- GRINDING
- AGENT
- LITTLE
- POLISH
- YEAR
- BORN
- FORES
- SONG
- NAVIGATE
- RING
- COAST
- SALACIOUS
- MAKE
- BAD
- DEFAMATION
- CORRUPT
- TEAR
- WISH
- GAUCHO
- ORDN
- HAIR
- SINGER
- SEDIMENT
- EQUINE
- EXULT
- GRAMMARIAN
- NO-NO
- 61
- 64

## Peanuts



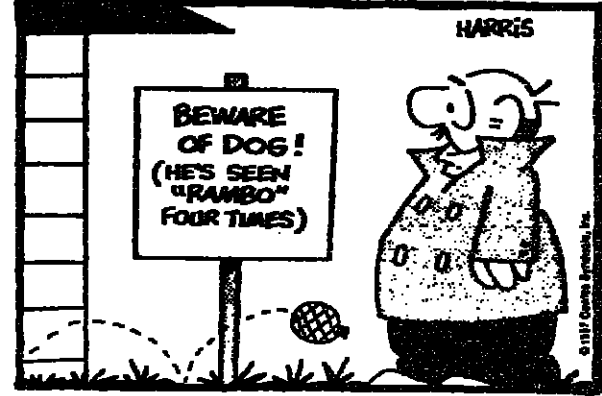
## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF.



## JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOFOR

HOWSY

RANTIM

DORPAN

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles COUGH ALTAR SAILOR WISLEY

Answer: What you might see at a planetarium — AN ALL-STAR SHOW.

Horoscope not received

هذه هي الصورة



# Alfonsin names new army chief

**BUENOS AIRES (R)** — Argentine President Raul Alfonsin has named General Jose Dante Caridi as army commander, ending the spectre of mass retirements from the leadership in the fallout from a four-day army rebellion.

Mr. Alfonsin Monday night named Gen. Caridi, army inspector-general and number four in the army hierarchy, to replace Gen. Hector Rios Erenu as army chief-of-staff, whose retirement Monday had been demanded by rebel leaders.

Press reports had tipped General Augusto Vidal to replace Gen. Rios Erenu. Gen. Vidal is widely reported to have played a key role in pressuring the 600-odd rebels at Campo De Mayo army base to give up their revolt against the army command.

His appointment would have forced 14 top generals into retirement due to Argentine military codes which say that military commanders must hold seniority over their subordinates.

Civilian courts pressed ahead Monday with trials into human rights abuses committed during the past military government less than 24 hours after the rebellion sparked by such trials ended.

A court in Bahia Blanca, 690 kilometres south of Buenos Aires, Monday arraigned a retired general on murder, torture and other charges while a Buenos Aires court heard testimony from witnesses who said they were tortured outside the capital under military rule.

The proceedings came after Mr. Alfonsin accepted Gen. Rios Erenu's resignation and personally persuaded 600 rebel officers Sunday to end their mutiny against army leadership and lay down their arms at their stronghold in

Campo De Mayo army base near the capital.

Leaders of the revolt had demanded the removal of the army leadership, starting with Gen. Rios Erenu, who has angered middle- and lower-ranking officers by ordering them to appear in civilian courts to answer human rights charges.

Defence Minister Horacio Jaunarena had been appointed acting commander-in-chief, according to a government communiqué.

In Bahia Blanca, the federal appeals court arraigned retired General Jose Luis Sexton on 40 charges of murder, torture and other crimes committed during the past military government.

Gen. Caridi's name was on a list of officers that human rights groups submitted to the Senate on April 1, asking the officers not to be promoted pending an investigation of their activities during the "dirty war" on suspected leftists by military governments that ruled from 1976-83.

At least 9,000 people vanished during the "dirty war" conducted against suspected leftists by the military juntas. About 250 officers face charges of human rights abuses.

Hundreds of thousands of people went into the streets to support Mr. Alfonsin through the crisis, which ended Sunday.

The newspaper *Diario Popular*'s headline Monday declares: "The People Triumph." In an editorial, the Buenos Aires *Herald* referred to "the End of the Affair."

Roberto Iglesias Concepcion, a lawyer, said: "I know I was scared, very scared, that the army would try to come to power if it saw an opportunity, but I think Alfonsin ended the rebellion with courage."

About 400,000 people responded to urgings from radio and television announcers Sunday to gather in the Plaza De Mayo and "defend our democracy."

## Poll: U.S. deploys anti-nuclear arms

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Most Americans mistakenly believe that the United States has weaponry deployed to fend off a nuclear missile attack, according to a poll by a conservative Washington organisation.

The survey of 1,004 Americans, released by the Committee on the Present Danger, found that most were in favour of President Ronald Reagan's Star Wars programme to develop an anti-missile defence, although many did not understand some key defence issues.

Of those polled, 64 per cent said that "the United States currently has a system to defend against nuclear missile attack," while 31 per cent thought that statement was false and 4 per cent said they did not know.

Sixty-seven per cent correctly answered that the Soviet Union has such a system, 29 per cent

said Soviets had no system, and 4 per cent said they did not know.

Under the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, the Soviet Union is allowed and does maintain a 100-missile system defending Moscow. The United States scratched a similar system more than a decade ago, and relies on the threat of massive retaliation to deter nuclear attack.

Seven-four per cent of those polled said they favoured developing an anti-missile defence system in the United States, with 19 per cent opposed and 7 per cent with no opinion, the poll said.

The telephone poll, conducted on April 3-5 by Penn and Schon Associates, has a margin of error of 3 per cent, according to the committee.

Eighty-nine per cent of those polled said they believed that the United States "has more nuclear

weapons today than it did 20 years ago," the survey said.

Although figures on U.S. nuclear weapons are classified, the number has fallen by 30 per cent and the total explosive power by 75 per cent over the past 20 years, according to congressional testimony by Pentagon officials.

Asked what per cent of the total U.S. economic output is spent on defence, 5 per cent answered less than 10 per cent, 23 per cent answered 10-20 per cent, 24 per cent answered 21-30 per cent, 18 per cent answered 31-40 per cent, and 10 per cent answered 41-50 per cent.

The current figure is 6.2 per cent, with the post World War II of 9.1 per cent reached in 1955, and the low of 4.5 per cent in the early years of the Carter administration, according to the committee.

## Philippine military reports victories

**MANILA (R)** — Senior military officials reported victories against Communist rebels Tuesday, saying troops killed by helicopter gunships backed 20 insurgents in battles in the northern and central Philippines.

They said Communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas had been on the run since Monday after helicopter gunships reinforced soldiers in Bulacan province, north of Manila, and on central Negros Island.

The reports, which could not be independently confirmed, took the pressure off an army still smarting from another brief mutiny during the Easter holiday Saturday.

Manila continued to suffer sporadic blackouts following Sunday's massive power failure that cut electricity to most of the main island of Luzon and sparked coup rumours.

Electricity officials, who have ruled out sabotage, said the continuing cuts increased the attractiveness of a Soviet offer to help finance two power plants.

The offer last month was at first greeted coolly by the administration of President Corason Aquino. The officials said details of the proposal showed Moscow would take increased exports from Manila in return for the estimated \$550 million cost of the plants.

Brig-Gen. Engenio Ocampo said soldiers killed 15 rebels and captured their camp in fierce fighting that was still going on in the Bandera Mountains north of Manila.

Gen. Ocampo, the regional commander, said the rebels abandoned their camp and made a stand in the mountains near a dam that was part of the capital's water-supply system.

## Pakistan says India engaged in military buildup

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)** — Pakistan's foreign minister has said that India is engaged in a major military buildup and has failed to respond to Pakistan's peace overtures.

The minister, Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, made his comments Monday as parliament opened a foreign policy debate. Mr. Yaqub Khan criticised what he called "unfortunate Indian propaganda" against Pakistan's nuclear programme and arms acquisition to boost its defences.

"Pakistan has repeatedly made proposals to India to cut defence

expenditures and to implement the non-aggression agreement," Mr. Yaqub Khan said.

"India should now respond positively to these measures, rather than raising unjustified objections to Pakistan's efforts to acquire limited arms for its defence, particularly when (India) ... is itself engaged in a vast war programme," said the foreign minister.

Mr. Yaqub Khan dismissed Indian allegations that Islamabad is building a nuclear bomb, saying New Delhi already possesses atomic capability and is continuing "a huge nuclear programme,

which is free from any inspection or safeguards."

He said India boosted its defence budget 43 per cent to \$10 billion during fiscal 1986, which ended March 31. He said Pakistan's defence spending is around one-fifth that amount.

He said Islamabad repeatedly proposed that the two nations sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, conclude an accord for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and declare South Asia a nuclear free-zone.

But Mr. Yaqub Khan said India had not responded to those overtures.

## U.N. Asian and Pacific commission marks anniversary

**BANGKOK (R)** — Delegation from across Asia and the Pacific opened a week-long session Tuesday to mark the 40th anniversary of United Nations efforts to promote the region's economic and social development.

The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will review regional development programmes and discuss future moves to improve living standards for the area's 2.7 billion people.

Opening the session, ESCAP Executive Secretary Shah A.M.S. Kibria urged delegates from the organisation's 47 member states and territories to avoid political bickering.

ESCAP membership includes such rivals as the United States and the Soviet Union, Pakistan and India, as well as Vietnam and the U.N.-recognised guerrilla

coalition Hanoi is fighting in Kampuchea.

Delegates said they expected the Soviet, Vietnamese and other pro-Kremlin delegations to walk out when Khieu Samphan, foreign minister of the exiled Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, addresses the meeting.

The Soviet team is also expected to try to have the session approve Kremlin calls for nuclear disarmament and against the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative or "Star Wars" programme.

In a message read to the session, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said many Asian countries had achieved strong growth rates in recent years despite trade protectionism, low commodity prices and stagnating flows of development aid.

## Congressmen urge Gorbachev to release Wallenberg

**WASHINGTON (R)** — More than 110 U.S. legislators signed a letter urging Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to release Nazi holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg or fully account for his fate, the letter's sponsor has said.

Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during World War II. He was taken captive by Soviet forces and disappeared inside the Soviet prison system.

"Despite statements by Soviet officials many years ago that Wallenberg had died in a Soviet prison, there have been a number of credible reports over the years indicating that he is still alive and remains imprisoned in the Soviet Union," said the letter, which was made public Monday.

"We urge you to secure the release of Raoul Wallenberg or to provide a full, complete, and public accounting of his fate. We believe that he still lives, and we urge that he be permitted to leave the Soviet Union," it said.

The letter to Mr. Gorbachev said the release of Wallenberg would provide an important confirmation of the Soviet leader's intention to pursue a more open policy.

One man saved by Wallenberg was congressman Tom Lantos, who sponsored the letter and released it Monday. It was signed by 113 members of Congress and sent to Moscow last week.

Wallenberg went to Budapest in 1944 at the request of the United States' War Refugee Board. During the Nazi occupation of Hungary, he personally pulled people from Nazi deportation trains and issued protective Swedish "passports" to thousands of people.

When Budapest was captured by Soviet troops in January 1945, Wallenberg was taken prisoner by Soviet forces.

## 'U.S. army set up secret account to fund contras'

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The army was involved in funneling money to the Nicaraguan contra rebels through a secret Swiss bank account set up in 1983, CBS Television network reported.

CBS, in its Monday evening news broadcast, said Marine Lt.-Col. Oliver North, then a White House aide, and retired Air Force Maj. General Richard Secord were among those authorised to make withdrawals from the account.

Congress banned U.S. military aid to the contras in 1984. The Swiss account was set up in 1983 by a secret army unit operating out of a suburban Washington office building, the network reported.

"Two years later, \$2.5 million was withdrawn from the army secret account in just one day," \$75,000 of that was used to charter a tramp steamer which carried arms to the contras at a time when U.S. military aid was barred by law," CBS said.

The network quoted two unidentified sources as saying the account at a Geneva bank evidently was established in anticipation of the congressional aid cutoff.

The Defence Department has said previously its only role in the Iran-contra affair was to provide the weapons which were sold to Iran.

CBS said the army initially denied knowledge of the account, but began an inquiry once the account number was provided. It said the investigation is now being conducted by the special prosecutor appointed to investigate the Iran-contra affair.

A Pentagon spokesman said late Monday that Defence Department officials were "looking into the issues that were raised in that report."

"The bottom line is that we were unaware of any such activities, but we are cooperating fully with the special prosecutor and congressional investigators," Lt.-Col. Bob Taylor said.

Two army "intelligence operations" were named on the bank account in addition to Col. North and Gen. Secord, according to CBS. The network identified them as William Golden, an army intelligence officer who worked for Business Security International, which the network said was a front company used by the army to support secret operations; and Joel Patterson, a civilian who also worked for the firm.

Golden could not be reached for comment.

Patterson denied any knowledge of the account.

"That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard and really, I have no more to say other than that," he told the network.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday that the secret financial network used to funnel millions of dollars to Nicaraguan rebels was set up a decade ago to hide money transferred abroad by wealthy Nicaraguans fearful of a Sandinista victory.

The Post, quoting Miami banking sources, said the contra network used the same Cayman Islands bank, Banco De America Central (BAC), various Panamanian companies and other accounts later used for clandestine contra aid.

## Chernobyl radiation lower than estimates — expert

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Radiation exposure from last year's Chernobyl nuclear disaster was 10 to 20 times lower than estimates made shortly after the accident, a Soviet medical official has said.

The statement by Leonid Ilyin, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, confirmed a report by a British labour union delegation that visited Chernobyl plant earlier this month.

Two workers were killed in an explosion and fire at the plant on April 26, 1986, and 29 people died later from radiation-related diseases.

Mr. Ilyin, interviewed on the nightly television news programme *Vremya*, said "our findings allow us to say that the Chernobyl accident will not cause any sizeable change in oncological sickness among the population. The same is true for the problem of genetic consequences."

Oncology is the branch of medicine dealing with tumors.

Members of the British group said on April 5 that Soviet officials told them "early estimates of radiation exposure among people living in the Chernobyl area may have been 10 to 15 times too high."

## 7 killed in U.S. house fire

**CAMDEN, New Jersey (AP)** — Seven people, including four children, were killed in a row house fire that may have been caused by careless smoking, an official said.

Fire officials, however, said no cause was determined for the Monday blaze that left two additional children in critical condition.

The victims, all found crowded into the kitchen in the rear of second floor, included a young couple and two children who lived upstairs. Also killed was a woman and two of her three children.

All died apparently of smoke inhalation.

Neighbours said they could hear the screams of the trapped residents from the second floor as the fire engulfed the first floor in front and spread quickly toward the rear of the building.

Killed were Carmen Valentin, 23, her 3-year-old daughter, Yajaira Acevedo, and her 4-year-old son, Roberto Acevedo; Isidro Perez, 24; and Sonia Rosado, 19, and her two daughters, Jasmine Maniero, 2, and Dmaris Maniero, 18 months.

## China's navy expands operations in Pacific

**PEKING (AP)** — China's navy said Tuesday it has expanded operations in the Pacific by increasing its number of warships and adding seaplanes and bombers to its force, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The navy, in the statement carried by the news agency, said it now can operate as far south as waters off Vietnam in the South China Sea.

The report said the navy has 11 times as many warships as in the 1950s, with major warships using guided missiles. The missile-carrying ships, all built by China, include destroyers, escort vessels,

gunboats and conventional and nuclear submarines.

The navy has taken several steps to upgrade its fleet, the statement said. China's first enclosed missile escort vessel is now in commission in the East China Sea Fleet.

The country's first naval training vessel, a 5,000-tonne ship launched last July that uses navigational equipment and radar imported from Britain, can sail 10,000 nautical miles without refuelling.

Satellites and other modern communications techniques are being used to guide ships, the

statement said, adding that China's first seaplanes were developed last August.

China also has introduced its first group of bombers, the Hong-6D, which carry air-to-sea missiles.

The report said the navy can operate as far as China's Xisha and Nansha Islands, also called the Paracels and the Spratly Islands, which are claimed by both China and Vietnam.

The report gave no figures for the size of China's fleet, which is thought to have three nuclear submarines and 44 major surface warships.

## U.S. Gen. Maxwell Taylor dies at 85

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam during the buildup of American forces there, has died at age 85, the Pentagon announced.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Gen. Taylor will be remembered as "one of the great military men in American history" and that the four-star general "epitomised what it means to be a soldier, a diplomat and a scholar."

The Pentagon said Gen. Taylor died Sunday of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a rare disease which affects the spinal cord. He had been hospitalised since mid-January at Walter Reed Army Medical Centre.

Gen. Taylor's World War II career was studded with stunning exploits, including a cloak-and-dagger mission to Italy to confer with Italian officers before their country's surrender was announced. He also guided the 101st Airborne Division in its jump into Normandy on D-day

and then led his paratroopers through 73 days of combat in Holland.

After the war, he became commandant of Berlin, the army's top post in the German capital, under the control of the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Great Britain.

He commanded the 8th Army in Korea toward the end of the Korean War and was United Nations commander in the Far East.

Gen. Taylor assumed the army's top military position, that of chief of staff, in 1955, a position he held until his first retirement on July 1, 1959.

He retired from the army after 41 years of service and became chairman of the Mexican Light and Power Company in Mexico City.

Gen. Taylor was recalled by President John Kennedy to assist him as an adviser in the military and intelligence fields. Gen. Taylor had been head of the "Cuban Study Group" formed by Kennedy to look into the Bay of Pigs debacle and to advise on

guerrilla tactics. He opposed the strategy of quarantine in favour of strikes that would destroy the Soviet missile sites in Cuba.

In the fall of 1961, Kennedy sent him to Vietnam to see what the United States could do there to stop Vietnamese Communist forces. He recommended that U.S. military presence in Vietnam should function primarily as a "logistical task force" and as an "emergency reserve in military crisis."

Gen. Taylor became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Oct. 1, 1962, a position he held until his resignation on July 1, 1964.

Less than a year later, President Lyndon Johnson named Gen. Taylor as ambassador to South Vietnam.

He resigned in 1965.

Gen. Taylor is survived by his wife, the former Lydia Gardner Happer, and two sons. The Pentagon said the funeral will be Thursday at nearby Fort Myer, Virginia, with burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

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### Iraq introduces anti-AIDS certificates

**BAGHDAD (R)** — All foreigners visiting Iraq and Iraqis returning from abroad must now get certificates from Iraqi hospitals saying they do not carry the virus of the killer disease AIDS. A decree issued Tuesday by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) said that anyone who failed to obtain such a certificate within five days of arrival would be liable to a fine of 500 dinars (\$1,600) or six months in jail. No cases of AIDS have yet been registered in Iraq.

### Jail for sale in Northern Ireland

**ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (AP)** — Armagh Prison in Northern Ireland, built in 1760, is up for sale for £185,000 (\$301,550). The prison is described by realtor Tim Hanna as a "very extensive centrally situated Georgian property." The front of the building can't be changed by the eventual purchaser because it has been "listed" — or protected by official decree as architecturally important. The jail has been empty for a year since its last 30 inmates were transferred to Maghaberry, a new prison. Prison authorities suggest Armagh Prison could be converted into offices, workshops, warehousing, or even a residential development. Armagh is considered one of the most historic and attractive towns in Ireland, with fine Georgian buildings and houses of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

### Survey rates Aquino alongside church

**MANILA (R)** — President Corason Aquino smiled, said she was not bragging and told the Philippines' Roman Catholic hierarchy that a survey said she was just as credible as the church. "I would like to inform the bishops, the archbishops and the priests that, according to the survey, it is the Catholic Church that enjoys the highest credibility, with a rating of 72 per cent," Mrs. Aquino told 150 clergymen at a recent inauguration of a church building. "Also, I hope you will not say I am bragging, in that survey, my rating was also 72 per cent," said Mrs. Aquino. She said the government-sponsored survey was conducted early this year. Mrs. Aquino, a devout Catholic who was installed as president after a church-backed military revolt ousted President Ferdinand Marcos in February, 1986, said people criticised her "for praying too much." "I just feel sorry for people who do not believe in the power of prayer," she said. "Throughout my difficult moments, I have always found a lot of consolation in prayer."

### Walesa completes autobiography

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has said he had completed his autobiography and offered it to an independent Polish Roman Catholic publishing house. However, Walesa said he expects it will appear first in the West because of Poland's state censorship. "I wrote it by myself and think it will have about 600 pages," said Walesa, the shipyard electrician who won the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the now-outlawed Solidarity free trade union. "I wanted to keep it secret until it is published and I'm very disappointed that the news got out," he said. "On the other hand, maybe it will push the thing forward here." Walesa said he had signed a contract to publish the book with the Znak (sign) Catholic Publishing House and submitted the manuscript earlier this month. Znak is a legally operating but independent Catholic publishing house based in the southern city of Krakow. "It is not for the censorship and if there was a real reform (in Poland) it would already have been published," said Walesa, contacted by telephone at his Gdansk apartment. "I even offered them (the publishing house) paper and said I didn't want any money for the publication." The government rations paper, which is in short supply, to publishing houses, and the Catholic press has complained that it does not receive sufficient supplies to meet its needs.

### Domingo gets 50-minute ovation

**BUDAPEST (R)** — Hungarians gave opera superstar Placido Domingo an ecstatic reception when he sang here for the first time in 14 years on a rare appearance in Eastern Europe. Budapest's 2,500-seater Erkel Theatre rang to bravos, rhythmic clapping and calls for "Pla-Go-Do" for 50 minutes after the end of the Spanish tenor's performance in Verdi's 1871 opera *Aida*. Applause had already stretched the work to four hours and almost brought it to a halt after Domingo's first aria as Radames, an Egyptian warrior in love with *Aida*, a captive Ethiopian princess, sung by Hungarian Ilona Tokody. He persisted even after the stage safety curtain had been lowered and the house lights extinguished. The 46-year-old tenor appeared as a favour to Hungarian opera fans, clamouring for a return visit since he sang here in Puccini's *Tosca* in 1973. "It is marvellous to return to a place where you have had a great success," Domingo told Reuters between rehearsals. "I am happy to return to sing for this wonderful public." Domingo seldom sings in Eastern Europe. He has sung once in Moscow and appeared on a television programme in East Germany.

### 5 Chernobyl victims become parents

**MOSCOW (R)** — Five people who suffered acute radiation sickness after the Chernobyl nuclear accident have since become parents of healthy children, a vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences has said. Leonid Ilyin, the supervisor of medical research into the effects of the disaster, also said 196 people who contracted radiation sickness from the accident last April 26 had been able to return to work after medical treatment. Ilyin told Soviet television that of 237 people suffering from acute radiation sickness after the accident, 28 had died and 209 had been cured. The figures indicated that 13 of those cured had not yet gone back to work. "I would like to stress that five of the sufferers have already given birth to healthy children," Ilyin added. The official Soviet death toll from the Chernobyl accident stands at 30, including two people killed outright by the explosion in the plant's fourth reactor.

### Nobel Prize money raised

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)** — The Nobel Foundation is raising the amount of its annual prizes by 8 per cent this year to 2.175 million kronor each (\$345,000 at the current exchange rate). Sweden's national news agency said Monday. The prizes for peace, medicine, chemistry, physics and literature are paid from the investment interest on the 31.6-million-kronor endowment left by dynamite-inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1896. The Swedish National Bank said it was matching the award money for the sixth Nobel Prize, in economics, which it established in 1965, the news agency TT reported. The prizes are announced in the autumn of each year and awarded Dec. 10 in ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo, Norway.

### New AIDS drug could cost \$10,000 a year

**CHICAGO (R)** — The first and so far only drug approved by the U.S. government for treating AIDS, due to go on sale this month, may cost patients \$10,000 a year, the American Medical Association (AMA) has said. It also said AIDS victims may find their insurance companies refusing to pay for the drug because medicines bought outside hospitals frequently are not covered by insurance policies. The drug, Azidothymidine, or AZT, is not a cure for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which destroys the body's natural immunity against disease. But studies have shown it can prolong life and reduce the number of infections that attack AIDS patients. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given permission to Burroughs-Wellcome Company to market the drug. A report in the *American Medical News*, a newspaper produced by the AMA, said Burroughs plans to charge pharmacies about \$188 for a bottle of 100 tablets, each 100 milligrams in size. After markup at the pharmacy level, the drug will probably wind up costing patients about \$10,000 a year, it said. AIDS patients must take 200-milligramme doses of the drug every four hours. The report said Burroughs plans to establish a programme to help indigent patients on a case-by-case basis.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### IN THE RIGHT SPOT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ J53		♠ 9764	
♥ KJ532		♥ A8	
♦ 103		♦ K9852	
♣ AQJ		♣ AQ	
		♣ 9842	
		♣ 753	
SOUTH		WEST	
♠ AKQ2		♠ 109	
♥ Q10		♥ A6	
♦ J764		♦ K9852	
♣ K106		♣ 9842	